RESOLUTIONS FOR B.C. NEWSMAKERS, PG 5

Entertainment

Ledger tops '08 movie poll
pg 12

The world's largest global newspaper
metro
VANCOUVER • WEEKEND, JANUARY 2-4, 2009
metronews.ca

Celebrity Buzz

Nicole ready for another baby
pg 14

New avalanches kill 2 more

Men caught at Blackcomb, Whistler in high-risk areas

Rescuers on Thursday located the bodies of two men killed by separate avalanches on Blackcomb and Whistler mountains.

Both were found in areas that were temporarily closed due to snow conditions.

A 26-year-old man snowboarding by himself in an area known as Secret Chutes near the Symphony Bowl on Whistler Mountain was buried in an avalanche that occurred around 3 p.m. Thursday. Due to snow conditions, the area was designated beyond boundary at the time, according to RCMP Sgt. Steve LeClair. The man was not a British Columbia resident.

The second skier was killed on Wednesday, but his body was not found until Thursday morning. Police received reports of an overdue skier on Blackcomb Mountain at about 8:30 p.m. New Year's Eve. The 37-year-old Whistler resident was described as an experienced skier and was last seen earlier that day at about 2 p.m. in the Ruby Bowl area. Although usually open to the public, the area was closed at the time and was marked with signage indicating the avalanche hazard was high.

Police contacted the man's cellphone provider and used the GPS function on his phone to determine he was still on the mountain. His body was found Thursday at about 9:30 a.m.

The names of the victims had not yet been released pending notification of next of kin.

The Whistler-area deaths occurred just days after eight snowmobilers were buried alive by a series of successive avalanches near Fernie in southeastern B.C.

METRO VANCOUVER

Warnings

- Avalanche warnings are currently in place for much of southern B.C., including both Whistler and Fernie.
- The Canadian Avalanche Centre issued an updated warning on Thursday, saying that a weak snow pack has created fragile conditions.

Vancouver man, friend shot in Mexico

CRITICAL A Vancouver man is in critical condition in a Mexican hospital, and his friend is stable, after the two were shot at a strip club and tourist hot spot.

Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs confirmed Thursday that two Canadians were shot on Tuesday in Cabo San Lucas, a resort town at the southern tip of the Baja California peninsula.

A local newspaper, the Tribuna de Los Cabos, reported the victims are 26-year-old Donguyen Ninhtrung from Vancouver and Michel Brenhan Spowe, 28. Metro was not able to confirm that Spowe is also from Vancouver.

The Mexican newspaper reported that the victims were sitting with another tourist from the United States in a strip club called Mermaids.

Two men walked in, sat down at a nearby table and ordered beers. Moments later one of the men stood up, walked to the Canadians' table and, according to witnesses, pulled a gun and shot the pair without saying a word.

A security guard was also shot and injured as dancers and patrons — mostly foreign tourists — all dropped to the floor.

The suspect then ran through a back door.

Spowe is in stable condition after being treated for gunshot wounds to his throat and leg, while Ninhtrung was shot in the neck and is reportedly in grave condition.

The newspaper said that police have no suspect or motive and are in the process of reviewing surveillance tapes.

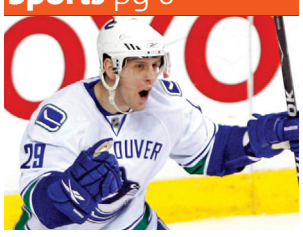
Foreign Affairs spokesperson Daniel Barbarie told Metro that Mexican authorities informed Canadian officials of the shooting on Tuesday.

"Consulate officials are in contact with Mexican authorities, the hospital and victims' families," Barbarie said. KRISTEN THOMPSON /METRO VANCOUVER

Movies pg 8

Art imitates life for Rourke

Sports pg 6



Canucks stop Predators

Music pg 10

Cross' picks to shine in 2009

ShareYourViews
vancouverletters@metronews.ca

Please recycle

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Swimmers react to the cold after jumping into the waters off English Bay during Vancouver's 89th annual polar bear swim on Thursday.

Dippers go for 'Canadian experience'

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

Thousands of Lower Mainlanders briefly forgot their New Year's Day hangovers Thursday by plunging into the frigid waters off English Bay at the city's 89th annual polar bear swim.

Swimmers — donning everything from hockey gear, clown suits and Batman costumes to thong speedos and party hats — stampeded through the sand and flung themselves into the water, then leapt out screaming.

Seth Brooks, 26, described the plunge as a "sobering experience," especially given his hangover.

"It freezes your lungs," he said. "But it's not as bad as you'd think."

Brooks said Vancouver's swim is famous in his native New Zealand and he'd always wanted to participate.

"It's a really Canadian experience … so it was cool to get to (try) it. I'm going to make it a yearly thing."

Erin Macdonald, 30, said she'd meant to do the swim for years, but always "chickened out" at the last minute.

She said it was a spur-of-the-moment decision to take the plunge yesterday.

Katie Varney, 30, was swimming for her second year, but said she couldn't remember her first time.

"It's like childbirth, I blocked it out," Varney said. "I'm just not looking forward to having to walk back to the car."

Perfectly balmy

- The air temperature in Vancouver Thursday was 2 C.

Free Daily News Group Inc., operating as Metro Vancouver Newspapers 1190 Homer Street, Suite 250, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 2X6. Publisher: Maryse Lalonde

Researchers peg tremors on trapped water
Researchers at UBC said Thursday they have the first compelling evidence to explain regular tremors under Vancouver Island — trapped water. They said pressure buildup in the fault area can force the trapped water to escape, making tectonic plates slip and slide. METRO VANCOUVER

Local

NHLers raise $16,000 for Bourdon fund

The National Hockey League Players' Association has raised more than $16,000 to support the Luc Bourdon Memorial Fund through the auction of tickets and autographed apparel. The most recent items put up for auction are 14 game-worn jerseys from last year's Winter Classic. The 21-year-old defenceman died in a motorcycle crash last year.
METRO VANCOUVER

Memorial service for avalanche victims

SPARWOOD A memorial service will be held in the small town of Sparwood on Sunday, for eight snowmobilers who died in an avalanche near Fernie.

The men were part of a group of 11 friends who were caught in four successive avalanches in Flathead Valley on Dec. 28.

Victims

- The avalanche victims are Kurt Kabel, 28, Warren Rothel, 33, Kane Rusnak, 30, Leonard Stier, 45, Michael Stier, 20, Thomas Talarico, 32, Blayne Wilson, 26 and Danny Bjarnason, 28.

Jeff Adams, one of the three men to survive the incident, said in an emotional news conference that the decision to leave his friends and head for safety haunts him.

"We had to make the gut-wrenching decision to leave ... and start walking off the mountain," Adams said, explaining that he knew that another avalanche was imminent.

"I replay it in my head all the time whether it was the right decision or not. The three of us talked it through and decided the best bet was to get out of the area and get help."

Seven of the bodies were recovered Monday. Adams returned with search crews on Tuesday to help find the last missing man.

"It brought a sense of closure," Adams said.

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER
With files from Reuters

Pharmacists can renew some meds

HEALTH B.C. pharmacists can now renew prescriptions of most routine medications for up to six months without their patients first seeing their doctors. An amendment to the Health Professions Act that took effect Thursday also allows pharmacists to change the prescribed dosage or substitute drugs, where appropriate, for example, to minimize side-effects. METRO VANCOUVER

Ringing in a snowy new year

Weather keeps downtown peaceful while Surrey sees crash, explosion

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

Falling snow kept New Year's Eve crowds small and relatively peaceful in downtown Vancouver, police said Thursday.

Const. Jana McGuinness said officers were kept busy, but the number of "incidents of note" was low.

A traffic closure in the Granville entertainment district reduced disturbances and falling snow made walking difficult. Six people were taken to jail to sober up.

In other parts of Vancouver, three people received minor stab wounds in alcohol-fuelled fights, McGuinness said.

New Year's Eve was a bit wilder south of the Fraser River. In Surrey, one teen lost a hand and four others were injured when an older-style firearm exploded, according to a media report. News1130 radio said the teens were firing the weapon to ring in the new year when it exploded.

Earlier in the evening, emergency crews were called to a six-car collision at about 8:30 p.m. at the intersection of King George Highway and Fraser Highway.

A white Chevy Lumina minivan rear-ended another van at a traffic light. It then veered into other stopped vehicles, including a police cruiser.

Surrey RCMP said alcohol and careless driving appeared to be factors in the crash.

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

First-time mother Navdeep Sandhu with her unnamed son at Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Centre on Thursday. The healthy baby boy was born about three minutes after midnight on New Year's Day.

New immigrant welcomes B.C.'s 1st baby of '09

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

BIRTH B.C.'s first baby of 2009 was born about three minutes after midnight to a landed immigrant in Abbotsford whose husband is still in India.

The healthy baby boy, born weighing six pounds, five ounces, will be named during a religious naming ceremony at a Sikh temple, likely sometime Friday, when the baby and mother are released from hospital.

"This is a really big deal for me," said Navdeep Sandhu, 21, a first-time mother whose husband, Gurmukh Ghag, is in India waiting to come to Canada. "I want to share it with my husband."

Sandhu, who married last December and came to Canada in April, was due Jan. 7. Her husband wasn't even aware that she went into labour until she called him — after the baby was born. She said he was surprised and excited.

"This is a really big deal for me. I want to share it with my husband."
Navdeep Sandhu

Sandhu's older sister Navneet was in the delivery room for the birth and various family members, including her brother and grandparents, were at Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Centre on Thursday.

Vancouver's first baby, Desmond McKay, was born about 12 minutes after midnight at B.C. Women's Hospital.

Footprints seen by lost snowboarder turn out to be his own

SEARCH The search for a second snowboarder missing on Mount Seymour has ended after police determined the footprints James William Martin saw on the mountain were his own.

Rescue crews began combing the mountain on Wednesday evening after the 21-year-old snowboarder, who'd just been found after three days in the wilderness, said he saw another set of tracks in the snow.

Martin, who recently moved to British Columbia from Ontario and works in Langley, was reported missing on Tuesday.

North Vancouver RCMP found his SUV in the Mount Seymour parking lot with his cellphone and wallet inside and promptly called North Shore Search And Rescue.

Police said he's lucky to be alive, and he's being treated at Vancouver General Hospital for frostbite to his hands and feet.

Martin told CBC News that if he had to have spent another day on the mountain he likely would have died.

He said he'd expected to be able to walk out of the wilderness, but each day as night fell, so did his hopes of being found.

KRISTEN THOMPSON/
METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

WARNING Vancouver police issued a public warning after a 23-year-old woman was robbed and sexually assaulted while waiting for a bus at Kingsway and East 12th Avenue. The incident took place at 9:30 p.m. Monday. The attacker grabbed the woman from behind and walked her to a nearby building where the robbery and sex assault took place.

CHARGE A Ridge Meadows RCMP member has been charged with one count of assault causing bodily harm stemming from an arrest in September 2006. The charge follows an internal RCMP investigation and an opinion from a use-of-force expert. Const. Ed Fox is scheduled to appear in Port Coquitlam provincial court Jan. 21.

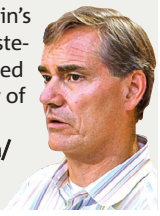
INJURIES Two people were injured on the Sea to Sky Highway near Porteau Bluffs when a large slab of ice fell onto their vehicle. The incident, at about 10:30 a.m. Monday, resulted in damage to the Volkswagen Rabbit's hood, windshield and sunroof. The ski rack was torn from the vehicle. METRO NEWS SERVICES

metronews.ca
WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video The brave and the foolish ring in 2009 with the polar bear dip at **metronews.ca/canada**

Video Atlantic Canada kicks off 2009 with a punishing blizzard at **metronews.ca/canada**

Video Maple Leaf CEO Michael McCain's response to listeria being named business story of the year at **metronews.ca/canada**



Students lack knowledge of sexually transmitted diseases, report says
Many Canadian high school students are unaware of the causes of infertility and do not know that sexually transmitted diseases can affect their ability to have children. Ninety-four per cent of the students did not know that sexually transmitted infections, such as chlamydia or gonorrhea, can lead to infertility, according to a report in the journal Fertility and Sterility. **REUTERS**

Canada

Insomnia costs billions: Study

Insomnia costs Quebec about $6.5 billion a year, mostly through lost productivity among those who can't sleep, according to a new study. The figures calculated by researchers from the University of Laval in Quebec City suggest "the economic burden of untreated insomnia is much higher than that of treating insomnia," so there should be more studies of therapies. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

3 slain in shooting on New Year's Day

JENNIFER HILLIKER
for Metro Canada

CRIME Three men are dead after a shooting at a southeast Calgary Vietnamese restaurant Thursday afternoon.

All three were eating, when at least two gunmen opened fire, according to police. Two of the victims were found inside the restaurant and one was outside, in the parking lot.

Getaway

- Witnessess said the suspects fled the scene in a silver vehicle.

While police have confirmed that it was a targeted attack and not a random act of violence, they won't say if the shooting was drug or gang related. Both homicide and gang units are investigating the case.

"It's been a busy day. Hopefully, it's not a sign of things to come," said Calgary Police Service Duty Insp. Dean Lagrange of the homicides.

"An officer's job is tough at the best of times, but when you come home to your families, you appreciate them a little bit more."

Police are getting help on this case from at least 10 witnesses who were eating in the Bolsa Vietnamese Restaurant. They are also asking nearby local businesses for any surveillance tapes that can help identify the shooters.

"I find this area usually to be very safe," said Melanie Hamel, who works in the same plaza as Bolsa.

"I've never felt scared or threatened."

Drug trade may entice troops

Report says there is 'high probabilty' soliders will get involved

There's a "high probability" some Canadian troops serving in Afghanistan — one of the world's biggest sources of illegal drugs — will get involved in the drug trade, a military police report warns.

"Easy access to heroin, hashish, cannabis presents a temptation for (Canadian) troops in the form of personal use and in the form of importation for the purpose of trafficking."
Military police report

"Access to illicit drugs in Afghanistan is routine," reads the report obtained by Torstar News Service.

"Easy access to heroin, hashish, cannabis presents a temptation for (Canadian) troops in the form of personal use and in the form of importation for the purpose of trafficking," it reads.

It notes that using and trafficking drugs are illegal and "contrary to the ethos" of the Canadian Forces, but concedes some of the 2,500 troops serving in the war-torn nation might not be able to resist.

The findings are outlined in a series of military police documents obtained by Torstar News Service under Access to Information legislation. The documents, requested in November 2007, were released last month.

One report cites a July 2007 search by military police officers, aided by a drug sniffer dog, of a Canadian convoy returning from Spin Boldak, on the Pakistan border.

The report says the dog "indicated" on one of the armoured vehicles as well as a heavy logistics vehicle that had been loaded on a flatbed trailer.

"The results of the search do not provide sufficient evidence to substantiate any charges. However, the results are indicative that (Canadian) personnel may be involved in the use and traffic of illicit substances," the report said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Nova Scotia **A snowy start to the new year**

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO CANADA

A man walks through blowing snow near the Halifax Common on Thursday. A howling blizzard ushered in New Year's Day in parts of the Maritimes as snow and high winds caused power outages, disrupted highway travel and grounded flights at some of the region's airports. Most of Nova Scotia was hit with whiteout conditions all day, with the eastern part of the province and Cape Breton expected to receive the most snow — up to 60 centimetres in some areas.

Feds order vote in transit strike

OTTAWA Federal Labour Minister Rona Ambrose ordered the union representing 2,300 striking Ottawa transit workers the vote — which must be held prior to Jan. 9 — last Wednesday after the city requested the move on Christmas Eve.

Ambrose appointed the Canada Industrial Relations Board to supervise the vote.

Ottawa has been without public transit since Amalgamated Transit Union Local 279's drivers, mechanics and dispatchers walked off the job on Dec. 10.

METRO CANADA

News in brief

FIRE Officers with the Ottawa police arson unit, the fire department and the fire marshal's office are investigating a fire at a Radisson Hotel around 8 a.m. on Thursday morning. Investigators say they found evidence inside the hotel that may suggest that the fire was deliberately set. One woman was in serious condition after suffering burns to her 20 per cent of her body. **METRO CANADA**

MAX Dental @ Yaletown

NEW PATIENTS PACKAGE
$199* APPROX. $325 VALUE
EXPIRES JAN. 31/2009
Ask about "Whitening for Life"
* Includes check-up and cleaning and choose from a FREE take home whitening kit OR electric toothbrush OR $199 Zoom Whitening (reg. $399). Some exceptions may apply.
WE DO BOTOX!
The MAX Dental @ Yaletown
90 Smithe Street 604.609.2020 www.yaletowndentists.com

www.IWantMyHolidayBonus.com
BRITISH COLUMBIA Honda DEALERS www.BCHonda.com
HONDA

New
Business Analysis
100% Online Certificate Program
Designed for individuals with business experience who want to build or increase their knowledge, skills and abilities in business analysis. The curriculum is aligned with the International Institute of Business Analysis (IIBA) body of knowledge with extra emphasis on soft skills and real-life case studies.
Apply today!
tech.ubc.ca/bamv or 604-822-1420
UBC Continuing Studies
SAUDER School of Business UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Extra second added to 2008 by world timekeepers

Those eager to put 2008 behind them had to hold their goodbyes for just a moment on New Year's Eve. The world's official timekeepers added a "leap second" to the last day of the year on Wednesday, to help match clocks to the Earth's slowing spin on its axis, which takes place at ever-changing rates affected by tides and other factors. REUTERS

World/Business

Air strike kills Hamas official

Israel killed a senior Hamas leader in an air attack on his home on Thursday, striking its first deadly blow against the top ranks of the Islamist group in a Gaza offensive that has claimed more than 400 Palestinian lives.

MOHAMMED SALEM/REUTERS

Palestinians stand Thursday at the scene of an Israeli air strike on the home of senior Hamas leader Nizar Rayyan in Gaza.

Nizar Rayyan, a cleric widely regarded as one of Hamas's most hardline political leaders, had called for renewed suicide bombings inside Israel.

Medical officials said two of his four wives and seven of his children were also killed in the bombing in Jabalya refugee camp.

Late Thursday night, Israeli war planes bombed the camp's mosque. Officials said it was a meeting place and command post for Hamas militants. The large number of secondary explosions after the strike indicated that rockets and missiles had been stored there.

Hundreds of supporters scrambling over the concrete rubble vowed revenge as bodies, covered in blood and cement dust, were extracted.

Rayyan, 49, was a preacher at a "mosque of martyrs" who mentored suicide bombers.

Hamas Radio said he had ignored advice to leave his house as other Hamas leaders have done in anticipation of assassination attempts by Israeli forces. REUTERS

Partygoers killed in Thai nightclub blaze

FIRE A blaze at a Bangkok nightclub killed 61 people and injured more than 200 others as people celebrating the new year stampeded out of the club.

The cause of the fire was under investigation, with witnesses saying it was caused by fireworks and media reporting it was due to an electrical fault.

Forensic experts were unable to identify at least 30 bodies as they had no identification documents with them, doctors said, adding it would take them at least a week to do so.

Foreigners treated in hospitals included those from Japan, Australia, the Netherlands and France, police said.

Although details were sketchy, witnesses said clubbers were given sparklers shortly before midnight. Fireworks then went off inside the dance area, sparking a conflagration. REUTERS

Injuries

- Among the most critical was a 25-year-old Japanese man who suffered 40 per cent burns on his body and was in an intensive care unit.

Castro revolution's 50th anniversary

MILESTONE Cuba celebrated Thursday the 50th anniversary of a 1959 revolution, whose leader Fidel Castro transformed the island into a communist state that has survived despite decades of opposition from the United States and the collapse of its Cold War benefactors.

The landmark anniversary comes at a time when the era of Fidel Castro, now 82 and in poor health, is winding down and uncertainty hangs over the future of the Cuba he built into an improbable world player admired for its social gains, but criticized for its human rights record.

Raul Castro, who officially replaced his older brother as president in February, was to speak Thursday evening in the eastern city of Santiago de Cuba, where Fidel Castro proclaimed victory after U.S.-backed dictator Fulgencio Batista fled on Jan. 1, 1959.

Fidel Castro has not been seen in public since undergoing intestinal surgery in mid-2006. REUTERS

Bombs kill at least 5 in India

ATTACK At least five people were killed and 26 wounded when suspected separatist militants set off three bombs in India's northeastern Assam state Thursday, police said.

The first bomb was found in a dustbin in a heavily populated residential area, but went off before it could be diffused.

Explosives planted on bicycles near a shopping mall and street market also exploded in the late afternoon, police said.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

Police pointed a finger at the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA), the major separatist group in the oil- and tea-rich state often blamed for attacks. They said they had identified the suspects after receiving specific intelligence information. REUTERS

News in brief

MADOFF A statue stolen last month from Wall Street financier Bernard Madoff's Florida home has been returned to a country club of which the accused fraudster is a member. Accompanying the statue was a note reading "Bernie the Swindler, Lesson: Return stolen property to rightful owners. Signed by The Educator." The statue was untouched, and police say the thieves likely wanted to prove a point. The former Wall Street fund manager stands accused of running a $50-billion US scam that ensnared investors worldwide.

CRIME Danish police on Thursday charged a 27-year-old man of Palestinian origin with the attempted murder of two Israeli youths. A gunman on Wednesday fired several shots at the youths, who worked at a hair salon in the Odense shopping mall, wounding one in the leg and the other in the arm. The attack came on the fifth day of Israeli air strikes against Hamas targets in the Gaza Strip, prompting speculation in Danish media of a link to developments in the Middle East.

IRAN Some 150 protesters stood outside the home and office of Iranian Nobel Peace Prize laureate Shirin Ebadi on Thursday accusing her of sympathy for Israel, the Islamic state's foe, a member of her human rights group said. The crowd tore down a sign for Ebadi's law practice and trampled it, Human Rights Defenders Centre member Abdulreza Tajik said. He added they dispersed after police intervened. REUTERS

Business

U.S. music sales tumble in 2008

U.S. album sales slid for a seventh time in eight years in 2008 as growth in the digital arena, one of the few bright spots in the ailing music industry, slowed, according to data issued this week.

Total album sales fell 14 per cent to 428.4 million units during the 52-week period ended Dec. 28, according to retail data collected by tracking firm Nielsen SoundScan.

This follows a 15 per cent drop in 2007, and sets a new low since the firm began monitoring sales in 1991. Sales have plummeted 45 per cent from the industry's high-water mark of 785.1 million units in 2000, due largely to Internet piracy and competition from other forms of entertainment such as video games.

Ringtones are also a major new focus. Lil Wayne also took honours for this year's top-selling album, moving 2.9 million copies of Tha Carter III. Last year's No. 1 album was pop vocalist Josh Groban's Noel with 3.7 million copies.

Only three other albums sold more than 2 million copies this year: Last year, eight albums sold more than 2 million copies.

Overall music sales, including albums, singles, music video and digital tracks, rose 10.5 per cent to 1.5 billion units, after 14 per cent growth in 2007 and a 19 per cent jump in 2006. REUTERS

Slovakia Joining the euro

RADOVAN STOKLASA/ REUTERS

A woman holds up Slovakia's first euro notes withdrawn from an ATM on New Year's Day. Slovakia joined the euro Wednesday, hoping that membership of the single currency will soften the blow of the global financial crisis.

TSX ends dismal year with gains

RALLY Toronto's main stock index jumped nearly two per cent on the last day of 2008, to end the worst year for Canadian stocks since the Great Depression on a positive note as oil prices staged a late-session rally.

The S&P/TSX composite index closed up 156.98 points, or 1.8 per cent, at 8,987.70 in a third-straight session of triple-digit gains. Crude is still down more than $100 a barrel from its high set in July. REUTERS

Business in brief

AUTO While it will be years before its released, Toyota Motor Corp. is secretly designing a vehicle that will run completely on solar energy. A newspaper in Japan says Toyota is developing the environmentally friendly car in order to boost struggling business.

LIQUIDATION A U.S. bankruptcy judge approved a deal that will transfer $28.1 million from a bank account of confessed swindler Bernard Madoff to the trustee liquidating Madoff's investment firm. METRO NEWS SERVICES

LOCAL
Publisher, Maryse Lalonde
Managing Editor, Fernando Carneiro
Distribution Mgr, George Acimovic

NATIONAL
Group Publisher, Bill McDonald
Editor-in-Chief, Dianne Rinehart
Assoc Mnging Editor, Tarin Elbert
Assoc Night Mnging Editor, Jim Reyno
Enter/Lifestyle Editor, Dean Lisk
Art Director, Laila Hakim
National Sales Director, Susan Courtney
Interactive/Mrktng Director, Jodi Brown

Comment & Views

2008: Can we get a do-over?

OmniVision

rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

It might just be me — never underestimate a columnist's proficiency at subjectivity — but I can't recall the last time the transition from the old year to the new felt so downbeat.

My memories aren't exactly long — I can't speak authoritatively about any new year during the Great Depression, or the last night of 1939, when a new world war was just getting under steam, and I've got to assume that they were pretty glum affairs.

The transition from 1963 to 1964, when the assassination of John F. Kennedy was still recent and raw, was probably a sombre affair, but it happened just before I was born.

I've lived through Watergate and the OPEC oil crisis, and at least two major recessions after the '70s, though, so I can claim some modest long view on history's recent dark patches.

I was a freelancer during the recession following Black Monday — Oct. 19, 1987 — and lost over half of my clients in the six subsequent months, but I know that the mood in general was far more festive when 1988 hove into view.

The consensus is pretty dire; a series of interviews with financial giants that's run in the National Post for the last few weeks has been depressing reading. "I think it's tough. I think it's going to get tougher," said Jim Treliving, CEO of Boston Pizza and Dragon's Den star.

"It sounds trite but it's a very complex and very dangerous situation," warned banking analyst Anthony Boekh.

Asked whether he's seen a worse situation, philanthropist and Barrick Gold CEO Peter Munk was succinct: "No. But then again, I'm only 81. If I was 120, I probably would have."

It's no wonder, then, that we're acting like we're facing dust bowls and bread lines even when the worst we've seen is mostly cruel justice — housing foreclosures on people who couldn't afford their homes to begin with, and the collapse of banking institutions who played a risky game badly and lost.

As for the crisis in the auto industry, that's been brewing for years — decades, actually — and there have been Bernie Madoffs at regular intervals since the first man traded his goat for a shiny bauble.

It's half real crisis and half coincidence, and it's rather inevitable that my industry — the media we keep hearing is at an all-time low in public trust — has managed to make it all seem like a financial perfect storm about to break over your leaky trawler.

It might be true — I make no claims as an oracle — but it's just as likely that we're being told to panic because nobody wants to look like Pollyanna if the worst comes to pass.

Perhaps we should take advantage of this sombre but fortuitous mood and begin the new year like jilted lovers; skeptical of everyone, whether they're peddling optimism or doom, and especially skeptical of our own judgment, which got us into this mess in the first place.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

Making resolutions for others

UrbanCompass

Making New Year's resolutions is a lot of fun.

Keeping them, on the other hand, is a drag.

This year, I've decided to maximize the fun and minimize the drag by making New Year's resolutions for other people. That way, someone else has to keep them ... or not. If they're anything like me, they'll try halfheartedly for a couple of days and then return to their bad old habits.

And so…

For Mayor Gregor Robertson I resolve that he should live up to his promise to run a transparent City Hall.

That was one of the promises that swept him to victory, but when the paint was still fresh on the door at 12th and Cambie, he surprised everyone by turfing city manager Judy Rogers and installing his own person, Penny Ballem, without a lick of public consultation. I personally don't think you need to consult the public to pick a city manager, but it's not my resolution. If you're going to promise transparency, be transparent. Or promise something else, like plowing the streets after a snowstorm.

For Premier Gordon Campbell I resolve that he remembers not to drink and drive over the holidays, wherever he travels. Then he should resolve not to get overconfident about winning the next election, which is — horrors — creeping up on us, although implementing a carbon tax on the eve of a recession seems like an indication of overconfidence to me.

For NDP Leader Carole James I resolve that she should reconsider her directive to run only female candidates in ridings where NDP MLAs aren't running again. When we go to the polls on May 15, we would like to vote for the best candidate available, not just the best female candidate. I realize that for centuries, we only got to vote for the so-called best man, but here in the 21st century it's a good idea to swear off all prejudice, even that disguised as affirmative action.

For John Furlong and VANOC I resolve that they should do a better job on their finances in 2009. It's more than a little disturbing that these guys have underestimated their costs by about $170 million according to the province's auditor general. In the meantime, big sponsors such as General Motors are skating on thin ice, which, rumour has it, will be an IOC-recognized sport for the 2010 games.

For Mats Sundin, I resolve that he should score at least 30 goals and take the Canucks to the Stanley Cup. That may seem like a lot for a guy who hasn't played hockey for nine months, but as he's being paid $5.625 million for the rest of the season, that comes to $187,500 a goal, which should make this resolution easy to keep. Unless it's not about the money. Right.

Happy New Year.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting.

Letters

Bring back Canadian Idol or give it to someone else

I am depressed about next summer.

I will watch American Idol, but I always look forward to our version.

I love anything Canadian.

We need to have this show aired; it gives everyone hope that dreams can come true.

CTV got the hockey song, maybe they should give CBC the show for this year.

Come on CTV, do something positive for this country. Find ways to make it more economical.

CAROLYN SAINCHUK
TORONTO

Snow removal should be an essential service in this city

I would like to know why the City of Vancouver has not removed snow from the side streets since all major streets are clear of snow.

As a resident and a taxpayer I believe that this is an essential service.

I have not been able to get my car to the main streets as the snow has not been cleared.

Nor has many sidewalks been cleared by homeowners or property owners. I take the bus and the bus stops are not even cleared.

It is quite treacherous trying to get on and off the bus. The city must take responsibility that their inaction and ineptitude has kept many residents like myself from doing daily activities like grocery shopping, going to work and even having my garbage and recyclables picked up. I am so fed up. This city sucks ... and you are not the "Best place on Earth."

SUE HON,
VANCOUVER

Gang war was 2008's biggest story for our city

Re: Year end review

I could not understand how you excluded the gang war that's been taking so many lives over the last year.

If that wasn't one of the year's top stories for you, it certainly was for the rest of us. Let's hope the new year brings more positive solutions than those we've been stuck with for the last 100 years.

TERRY MCKINNEY,
VANCOUVER

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: vancouverletters@metronews.ca
Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

METRO Vancouver 1190 Homer Street, Suite 250, Vancouver, BC V6B 2X6, Tel: 604-602-1002; Fax: 1-866-254-6504; Advertising: 604-602-1002 • adinfovancouver@metronews.ca; vancouver_distribution@metronews.ca; News: fernando.carneiro@metronews.ca

Tanguay out six weeks

Montreal Canadiens forward Alex Tanguay will miss six weeks with a left shoulder injury. Tanguay was injured during the first period of Tuesday's game against the Tampa Bay Lightning. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Bolt edges Phelps

Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt, left, edged U.S. swimmer Michael Phelps to be voted the 2008 athlete of the year by the international media. In a poll by the International Sports Press Association, journalists from 96 nations gave Bolt a narrow edge over Phelps. Bolt won three gold medals, setting world records in the 100 metres, 200 metres and 400-metre relay. METRO NEWS SERVICES

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Labarbera shines

NHL RESULT

Canucks 2 Predators 1

VS

SCOTT RINTOUL
for Metro Vancouver

THE SKINNY: Jason Jaffray's goal late in the third period proved to be the difference as the Canucks kicked off 2009 with a win in Nashville. Vancouver's other goal came from defenseman Mattias Ohlund, who opened the scoring in the first period. Langley's Jason Labarbera picked up his first win in the Canucks cage after being acquired for a 7th round draft pick on Tuesday.

THE DEBUT: If last night was any indication, Labarbera could be the answer to the Canucks' short-term crisis in the crease. Labarbera stopped 31 of the 32 shots he faced, including 16 in the second period.

THE SIX PACK: The Canucks have now defeated the Predators three times this season and six straight times dating back to last season. The Sedins have racked up a combined fourteen points in those six wins.

THE RATING: Competitive, yes; compelling, no. Though this one had all requisite elements (goals, hits, fights, etc.), they were too few and far between. 2.5 out of 5 stars.

THE NEXT GAME: A night after winning in Nashville, the Canucks will take on one of the NHL's worst teams in Atlanta. The Thrashers have lost four straight games and their fourteen points on home ice are the fewest in the league. Vancouver has won five of eight games all time against Atlanta, including a 2-1 win last February.

WHO'S IN FIRST: Does Alain Vigneault ride the hot hand and start Jason Labarbera after his win last night or does he go to Cory Schneider who looked very good in a loss to Philadelphia on Tuesday?

TURN ON THE RED LIGHT: The Thrashers have allowed the most goals in the NHL (139), while the Canucks are among the stingiest teams in the league. Vancouver has given up an average of one less goal per game than Atlanta.

NHL Take me out to the hockey game

JAMIE SQUIRE/GETTY IMAGES

Patrick Kane and Jonathan Toews of the Chicago Blackhawks chase down the puck against the Detroit Red Wings during the NHL Winter Classic at Wrigley Field Thursday. The Red Wings won the NHL's third outdoor game in the last five years, 6-4.

SCOREBOARD

NHL

THURSDAY'S RESULTS
VANCOUVER at Nashville
Detroit 6 Chicago 4
Boston 4 Pittsburgh 2
Buffalo 4 Toronto 1
Washington 7 Tampa Bay 4

FRIDAY'S GAMES
VANCOUVER at Atlanta
Montreal at New Jersey
St. Louis at Carolina
Columbus at Colorado
N.Y. Islanders at Phoenix
Philadelphia at Anaheim

For more sports coverage, visit us online at metronews.ca/sports.

www.IWantMyHolidayBonus.com
BRITISH COLUMBIA Honda DEALERS www.BCHonda.com
HONDA

Steve Nash weighing his options for 2010

YorkReport

Marty York

marty.york@metronews.ca

We're barely into 2009, granted, but the finest Canadian basketball player in history is already thinking about 2010.

In an interview with NBC, B.C. native Steve Nash confirmed what appeared in this space Nov. 24 — that he is considering the idea of joining the New York Knicks as a free agent in 2010, after his contract with the Phoenix Suns expires. He emerged with another eyebrow-raising possibility, however, by mentioning the Toronto Raptors to NBC.

While not ruling out re-signing with the Suns, Nash said: "I feel fortunate there could be other possibilities for me. New York, obviously, is my off-season home, so I love the city. It's a basketball mecca. (Ex-Suns-turned-Knicks coach) Mike D'Antoni is there so there's a lot of attractive variables. And then Toronto, to go back to Canada to play for the home team, so to speak. I feel good that one of those could really be a really strong possibility."

• Heaven knows the Raptors need help.

Despite Canadian media apologists who regularly utter nonsense about the Raptors "keeping close" to their opponents, the reality is that Canada's NBA franchise has deteriorated woefully, to the point where management is planning ticket-price reductions.

Fan interest is waning partly because many of the Raptors' games aren't televised by any network that allows the masses to watch them. Mind you, considering the Raps' ineptitude, that may be a positive for the club. Oh, and then there's word spreading around the NBA like wildfire that first-year Raptor Jermaine O'Neal has become a frequent complainer about injuries that may be more imagined than real.

• Ex-NBA superstar Charles Barkley, my favourite TV sports analyst, was drinking with Jaleel White — a.k.a. Steve Urkel of the old Family Matters sitcom — at an Arizona nightclub called Dirty/Pretty shortly before he was arrested for DUI Tuesday night ... Ex-NFL star Andre Rison, who also spent some time with the CFL's Toronto Argonauts, also was arrested this week on charges of public intoxication in Texas ... Look for lefthander Andy Pettitte to re-sign with the New York Yankees next week ... I'm told, incidentally, that the Blue Jays wouldn't mind signing an ex-Yank to fortify their offence. The question is whether they're willing to pay Bobby Abreu the millions he's seeking ... And soccer icon David Beckham has an interesting, new tattoo on his arm. It's in Hebrew, and it says: "My son, do not forget my teaching but keep my commands in your heart."

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.

08-09
$100,000
FREE FACE-OFF HOCKEY CHALLENGE
October 6, 2008 – April 13, 2009
Pick the winners of each weekend's Pro Hockey games and win your share of
$100,000 IN CASH PRIZES!
Visit Edgewater Casino Guest Services for full contest conditions.
Edgewater Casino DOWNTOWN VANCOUVER
At the Plaza of Nations
750 Pacific Blvd. Vancouver, BC V6B 5E7
604.687.3343 | www.edgewatercasino.ca
bclc
Know your limit, play within it.
19+ YEARS

Visit metronews.ca/movies to get showtimes, watch trailers and read reviews.

Movies&Entertainment

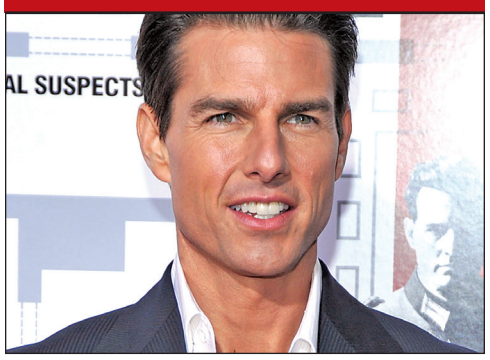
EDITOR: DEAN LISK, DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Movies

Year of the Third Dimension Pg 8

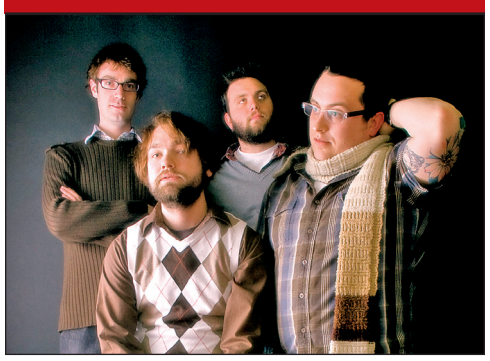
DreamWorks Animation chief Jeffrey Katzenberg, the man behind such family hits as Kung-Fu Panda and Shrek, has been touring North America to promote what he's determined as cinema's next great innovation: 3-D movies.

movies Pg 8



Cruise's million-dollar smile noticeably gone in Valkyrie.

music Pg 10



Indie rockers share touring, recording adventures online.

television Pg 12

Not surprisingly, Ledger tops poll for biggest story in 2008.

Warner Bros. prepared to defend Watchmen in court
In a defiant statement issued Monday, Warner Bros. said it was prepared to go to trial or appeal last week's U.S. court ruling that the studio had infringed on Fox's copyright in making Watchmen, the adaptation of the Alan Moore superhero graphic novel. REUTERS

Movies

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

The year of 3-D films

Movie **profile**

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

DreamWorks Animation chief Jeffrey Katzenberg is in the middle of a tough road trip. The man behind such family hits as Kung-Fu Panda and Shrek has been touring North America to promote what he's determined as cinema's next great innovation: 3-D.

Now, that may sound odd. After all, the fad of 3-D surfaced decades ago and since has become something of a punchline, which is exactly what's making Katzenberg's mission so challenging.

"It's really hard to get people to think about it in a different way, and the only way is to show it," said Katzenberg during a stop in Toronto.

By treating journalists to a sneak peek of his groundbreaking InTru digital 3-D comedy Monsters vs. Aliens — coming in March — Katzenberg is showing off how digital advancement has breached the campy fourth wall that was once reserved for such B-movies as 1953's Robot Monster and Cat-Women of the Moon.

"It was used as a gimmick," said Katzenberg about the historical use of 3-D.

"It doesn't replace a great story, so we come back to the very fundamental aspect of this, which is (that) Monsters vs. Aliens is great in its own right … but I think to be able to experience it in 3-D is something really exciting."

Katzenberg is not alone in this sentiment. While other films have been adapted for 3-D screenings, we're entering a year filled with 3-D-conceived projects, including My Bloody Valentine 3-D, Pixar's Up, Disney's A Christmas Carol and James Cameron's long-awaited Avatar.

For (Jeffrey) Katzenberg … the decision to begin making his films in 3-D wasn't easy. The technology will add 10 per cent to his costs, which will likely be reflected in the admission price.

For Katzenberg — whose studio already spends about $165 million per movie — the decision to begin making his films in 3-D wasn't easy. The technology will add 10 per cent to his costs, which will likely be reflected in the admission price. Some critics say such a gamble in a recessive economic climate is risky, but Katzenberg remains true to his latest innovation.

"Relative to any other choice you can do out of the home, movies are still just a phenomenal value. And frankly, in more challenged economic times, people appreciate it more," said Katzenberg.

"People took movies for granted and they took the movie theatre for granted, and I don't think they are right now."

Art imitating life for Rourke

Movie **profile**

CHRIS ALEXANDER
for Metro Canada

All art imitates life and nowhere is this adage more resonant than in director Darren Aronofsky's latest peek into the darker recesses of the human heart, The Wrestler.

The film follows the lonely twilight days of former wrestling superstar Randy (The Ram) Robinson as he desperately attempts to grapple with age, ego and the physical toll his profession has racked against his body.

But the film's real fascination — it opens next Friday — lies in the eerie manner in which The Ram's misfortunes echo those of the man who plays him: '80s movie icon Mickey Rourke, who delivers a dynamic, career-best performance that has Oscar written all over it.

Mickey Rourke plays a beaten and battered wrestler trying for a comeback in The Wrestler.

Once considered the heir apparent to both Marlon Brando and Robert DeNiro, Rourke — after starring in such tough, uncompromising cult favorites as Diner, The Year of the Dragon, Angel Heart and Barfly — endured a plethora of public humiliations (his rocky relationship with ex-wife Carre Otis is well-documented) before abandoning his craft to pursue his first love, boxing. By the time he returned to the screen in the late '90s, the party was long over.

Screenwriter Robert Siegel wrote the part of The Ram specifically for Rourke, basing the character on his own admiration for the actor's past cinematic glories.

The Wrestler — which sees Rourke delivering a shattering emotional and physical performance — marks the official return of the once-troubled actor to the Hollywood big leagues.

"It feels strange, very strange and almost painfully nice," says Rourke about his career renaissance. "I behaved terribly in those early days … I've been fortunate enough along the way to have access to good advice to make changes in my life. I just didn't think it was going to take me 10 years to work it all out."

ALL NEW RELEASE
MOVIE RENTALS
$3.99
1 DAY
DVD RENTAL
ROGERS VIDEO IS NOW YOUR
ROGERS plus
Movies are due back by 9PM on the day after rental begins. Blu-Ray movies priced separately. Additional per day charge applies if not returned when due to a maximum of 2 days. If rental is not returned within 30 days, rental will be deemed lost or stolen and customer is responsible for the replacement cost of the rental as displayed on the rental rates material posted in each Rogers Plus store. See in-store or rogersplus.ca for full details & conditions. TM Trademarks of Rogers Communication Inc. © 2008.

Tom Cruise and the megawatt smile that made him a superstar

InFocus

Valkyrie looks like a standard-issue Tom Cruise movie with the usual explosions, intrigue and wild action. The missing key element is his megawatt smile. His Col. Claus von Stauffenberg is so stern-faced he makes the expression-challenged Buster Keaton seem riotously animated by comparison.

If Helen of Troy was the face that launched a thousand ships, then Cruise has the smile that sold a million movie tickets. Wide and toothy, it stretches the full breadth of his face as a physical manifestation of his movie-star charisma and is the focus of his public persona.

The smile debuted in a Risky Business scene where he recruits clients for his new business. There it was a charming, non-aggressive symbol of his self-assuredness.

The eighties saw the lopsided grin become a pop-culture icon. It shone from the cockpit of his Top Gun F-14 and reflected off the Stoli bottles in Cocktail. In each of these films the smile is 90 per cent of the performance.

After a series of tight-lipped Oscar-bait performances post-Cocktail that kept the smile hidden, 1996's Jerry Maguire brought the smile back as a romantic tool, revealing both heartbreak and earnestness

The smile's most natural performance to date is in Magnolia. As the inspirational guru of the "Seduce and Destroy" technique, Cruise handed in the best performance of his career because he understood the character's innate charisma.

The villain characters of The Last Samurai and Collateral show the smile's emotional range. The smile is still there, but now it's menacing. For example, Vincent, the hit man in Collateral, uses an ominously icy smile when he's about to hurt people.

In one form or another, the smile has been front and centre in all of Cruise's hits. Without it, Valkyrie just doesn't feel like a real Cruise blockbuster.

Richard Crouse is the author of Son of the 100 Best Movies You've Never Seen and film critic for CTV's Canada AM.

Cineplex | Empire | AMC | Alliance Atlantis | ATNY | Independent

Screen Times

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., JAN. 2 TO THURS., JAN. 8. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

VANCOUVER

OMNIMAX THEATRE SCIENCE WORLD
1455 Quebec St., 604-443-7443

The Alps (STC) Fri-Sun 2
Journey Into Amazing Caves (STC) Fri-Sun 12
The Light Before Christmas (STC) Fri-Sun 11-1-3-5 Fri-Sat 7:30
Pulse: A Stomp Odyssey (STC) Fri-Sun 4 Fri-Sat 8:30

CN IMAX THEATRE
201-999 Canada Place, 604-682-4629

Space Station 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12-2-4-6 Mon 12-2-6 Tue 2-6 Wed-Thu 12-2-6
U2 3D (G) Fri-Thu 8
Wild Ocean (G) Fri-Sun 1-3-5-7 Mon 1-3-7 Tue 3-7 Wed-Thu 1-3-7

DUNBAR THEATRE
4555 Dunbar Street, 604-222-2991

Valkyrie (PG) Fri-Sun 1:30-4-7-9:35 Mon-Thu 7-9:35

FIFTH AVENUE CINEMAS
2110 Burrard Street, 604-734-7469

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Fri-Thu 1-4:30-8
Doubt (G) Fri-Thu 1:40-4:40-7:10-9:35
Milk (PG) Fri-Wed 1:10-4-6:40-9:15 Thu 1:10-4-9:15
The Reader (18A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:20-7-9:45
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:10-6:50-9:25

GRANVILLE
855 Granville St., 604-684-4000

Body of Lies (18A) Fri 4:15-6:55-9:35 Sat-Sun 1:35-4:15-6:55-9:35 Mon-Thu 6:55-9:35
Bolt (G) Fri 4:25-7:15 Sat-Sun 1:55-4:25-6:45 Mon-Thu 6:45
Changeling (14A) Fri 4:30-7:20 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:30-7:45 Mon-Thu 7:45
A Christmas Tale (French w/e.s.t.) (PG) Sat-Thu 9:10
JCVD (PG) Sat-Thu 9:15
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri 4:10-7:10-9:20 Sat-Sun 1:45-4:10-7:10 Mon-Thu 7:10
Repo! The Genetic Opera (18A) Fri 9:50 Sat-Sun 1:50-4:20-7-9:20 Mon-Thu 7-9:20
Role Models (14A) Fri 4-7:05-9:25 Sat-Sun 1:40-4-7:05-9:25 Mon-Thu 7:05-9:25
Synecdoche, New York (14A) Fri 4:20-7-9:45
Twilight (PG) Fri 4:05-6:50-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:25-4:05-6:50-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:30

HOLLYWOOD THEATRE
3123 W. Broadway, 604-738-3211
hollywoodtheatre.ca

Appaloosa (PG) Fri 9:15 Sat-Sun 3:15-9:15 Mon-Thu 9:15
Vicky Cristina Barcelona (PG) Fri 7:30 Sat-Sun 1:30-7:30 Mon-Thu 7:30

OAKRIDGE
650 West 41st Ave., 604-263-1944

Bedtime Stories (G) DTS Digital Fri-Sun 1:20-4:10-7-9:30 DTS Digital Mon-Thu 7-9:30
Marley & Me (G) Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Sun 1-3:50-6:45-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital Mon-Thu 6:45-9:40
Yes Man (PG) DTS Digital Fri-Sun 1:30-4:20-7:10-9:45 DTS Digital Mon-Thu 7:10-9:45

PACIFIC CINÉMATHÈQUE
1131 Howe Street, 604-688-3456
cinematheque.bc.ca

The Exiles (STC) Fri-Sat 7:30-9 Sun-Mon 7:30
Mock Up on Mu (STC) Wed 7:15-9:30
Thirty-Two Short Films About Glenn Gould (STC) Thu 7:30
Wild Child (STC) Thu 9:25

PARK THEATRE
3440 Cambie Street, 604-876-2747

Gran Torino (14A) Fri-Sun 1:30-4-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 4-7-9:30

RIDGE THEATRE
3131 Arbutus Street, 604-738-6311

Waltz With Bashir (Hebrew w/e.s.t.) (R) Fri-Sun 2-4-7-9 Mon-Thu 4-7-9

RIO ON BROADWAY
1660 E. Broadway, 604-878-Film
riotheatre.ca

Hairspray (STC) Sat
The Omen (STC) Fri 12
The Omen (18A) Fri
Pink Flamingos (STC) Sat 12
The Spirit (14A) Fri 7-9:30 Sat-Sun 4:30-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 7-9:30

SCOTIABANK THEATRE VANCOUVER
900 Burrard St., 604-630-1407

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:30-4:30-8:30 Mon-Thu 12:30-4:30-8:30 No Passes Fri-Sun 1:30-5:30-9:30 Mon-Thu 1:30-5:30-9:30
The Day the Earth Stood Still (STC) Fri-Thu 1:40-4:15-7:40-10:30
Marley & Me (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:50-3:45-7:10 Mon-Thu 12:50-3:45-7:10
Milk (PG) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:40-6:40-9:40
Quantum of Solace (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:30-10:15
The Spirit (14A) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:10-7:20-10:20
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:45-1-3:30-4-6:50-7:10-9:50-10:10 Mon-Tue 12:45-1-3:30-4-6:50-7:10-9:50-10:10 Wed-Thu 12:45-1-3:30-4-7:10-9:50-10:10

TINSELTOWN
International Village, 88 West Pender, 3rd floor, 604-806-0799
cinemark.com

Australia (PG) Fri-Thu 11:45-3:15-7:05
Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Fri-Wed 12:05-1:20-2:35-3:50-5:05-6:20-7:35-8:50-10:05 Thu 12:05-1:20-2:35-3:50-5:05-6:20-7:35-8:50-10:05
Doubt (G) No Passes Fri-Wed 12-2:20-4:45-7:15-9:45 Thu 12-2:20-4:45-7:15-9:45
Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Thu 6:15-8:30-10:35
Frost/Nixon (PG) Fri-Thu 1-4:10-7-9:50
Seven Pounds (PG) Fri-Thu 11:20-12:55-2:05-3:45-5:10-6:35-8-9:25-10:40
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri 1:50-4:40-7:30-10:25 Sat-Thu 11-1:50-4:40-7:30-10:25
The Tale of Despereaux (G) Fri-Thu 11:05-12:10-1:25-2:30-3:35-4:55-7:10-9:30
Valkyrie (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 11:30-12:50-2-3:40-4:50-6:30-7:40-9:20-10:30 No Passes Wed 11:30-12:50-2-3:40-4:50-7:40-9:20-10:30 Thu 11:30-12:50-2-3:40-4:50-6:30-7:40-9:20-10:30

VANCITY THEATRE
Vancouver International Film Centre
1181 Seymour St., 604-683-Film

Rhythm Is It! (STC) Fri 9 Sat 7 Sun 9 Mon 7 Wed 9 Thu 7
Trip to Asia: The Quest for Harmony (STC) Fri 7 Sat 9 Sun 7 Mon 9 Wed 7 Thu 9

VAN EAST CINEMA
2290 Commercial Drive, 604-251-1313
vaneast.net

Listings not available at press time.

NORTH SHORE

ESPLANADE 6
200 West Esplanade, 604-983-2762

Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:50-4:30-7:20-9:50 No Passes Mon-Thu 7:20-9:50
Bolt in Disney Digital 3D (G) Digital Presentation Fri-Sun 1:30-4:10 Digital Presentation Wed-Thu
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:40-4:20-8 No Passes Mon-Thu 8
Quantum of Solace (14A) Fri-Thu 7:15-9:55
Valkyrie (PG) Fri-Sun 12:55-3:50-7:10-10 Mon-Thu 7:10-10
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:15-4-7-9:40 No Passes Mon-Thu 7-9:40

PARK & TILFORD
333 Brooksbank Ave., 604-985-3911

The Day the Earth Stood Still (STC) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:20-7-9:45 Mon-Thu 7-9:45
Marley & Me (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:20 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:20 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Milk (PG) Fri-Sun 12:10-3-6:40-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:30
Seven Pounds (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:20-3:10-6:50-9:50 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:50 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
The Spirit (14A) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:40-7:10-9:35 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:35
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12-2:30-5-7:15-9:40 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:40

RICHMOND

RICHMOND CENTRE 6
6551 #3 Road, 604-273-7173

Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:05-4:35-7:10-9:35 Mon-Thu 4:35-7:10
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:50-4:10-7:35 Mon-Thu 4:10-7:35
Marley & Me (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:55-4:20-7:05-9:45 Mon-Thu 4:20-7:05
Seven Pounds (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 1-4:15-7-9:50 Mon-Thu 4:15-7
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:45-3-5:15-7:30-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:15-7:30
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:10-4:30-7:20-9:55 Mon-Thu 4:30-7:20

SILVERCITY RIVERPORT
14211 Entertainment Way, 604-272-7280

Australia (PG) Fri-Thu 3:25-8
Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:20-2:50-5:20-7:45-10:20 Mon-Thu 12:20-2:50-5:20-7:45-10:20
Bolt (G) Fri-Thu 12:10-2:45-5:15-7:35-10
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:15-4:15-8:15 Mon-Thu 12:15-4:15-8:15 No Passes Fri-Sun 1:15-5:15-9:15 Mon-Wed 1:15-5:15-9:15 Thu 5:15-9:15 Thu 1
The Day the Earth Stood Still (STC) Fri-Thu 2-4:50-7:55-10:35
The Day the Earth Stood Still: The IMAX Experience (PG) Fri-Thu 1-4-7-9:45
Doubt (G) Fri-Wed 1:25-4:05-7:20-9:55 Thu 4:05-7:20-9:55 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:20-6:50-9:25
Ghajini (Hindi w/e.s.t.) (14A) Fri-Thu 12:35-4:25-8:45
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Thu 12:45
Marley & Me (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:30-3:40-7:05-10:25 Mon-Thu 12:30-3:40-7:05-10:25
Quantum of Solace (14A) Fri-Thu 1-4-7:25-10:20
Seven Pounds (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:40-3:55-7:15-10:15 Mon-Thu 12:40-3:55-7:15-10:15
The Spirit (14A) Fri-Thu 1:45-4:35-7:40-10:40
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12-2:30-5-7:25-9:50 Mon-Thu 12-2:30-5-7:25-9:50
Twilight (PG) Fri-Thu 12:25-3:45-7:10-10:10
Valkyrie (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:40-7:50-10:45
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:05-1:05-3-4-6:45-7:30-9:45-10:30 Mon-Thu 12:05-1:05-3-4-6:45-7:30-9:45-10:30

BURNABY

DOLPHIN CINEMAS
4555 E. Hastings St., 604-293-0332

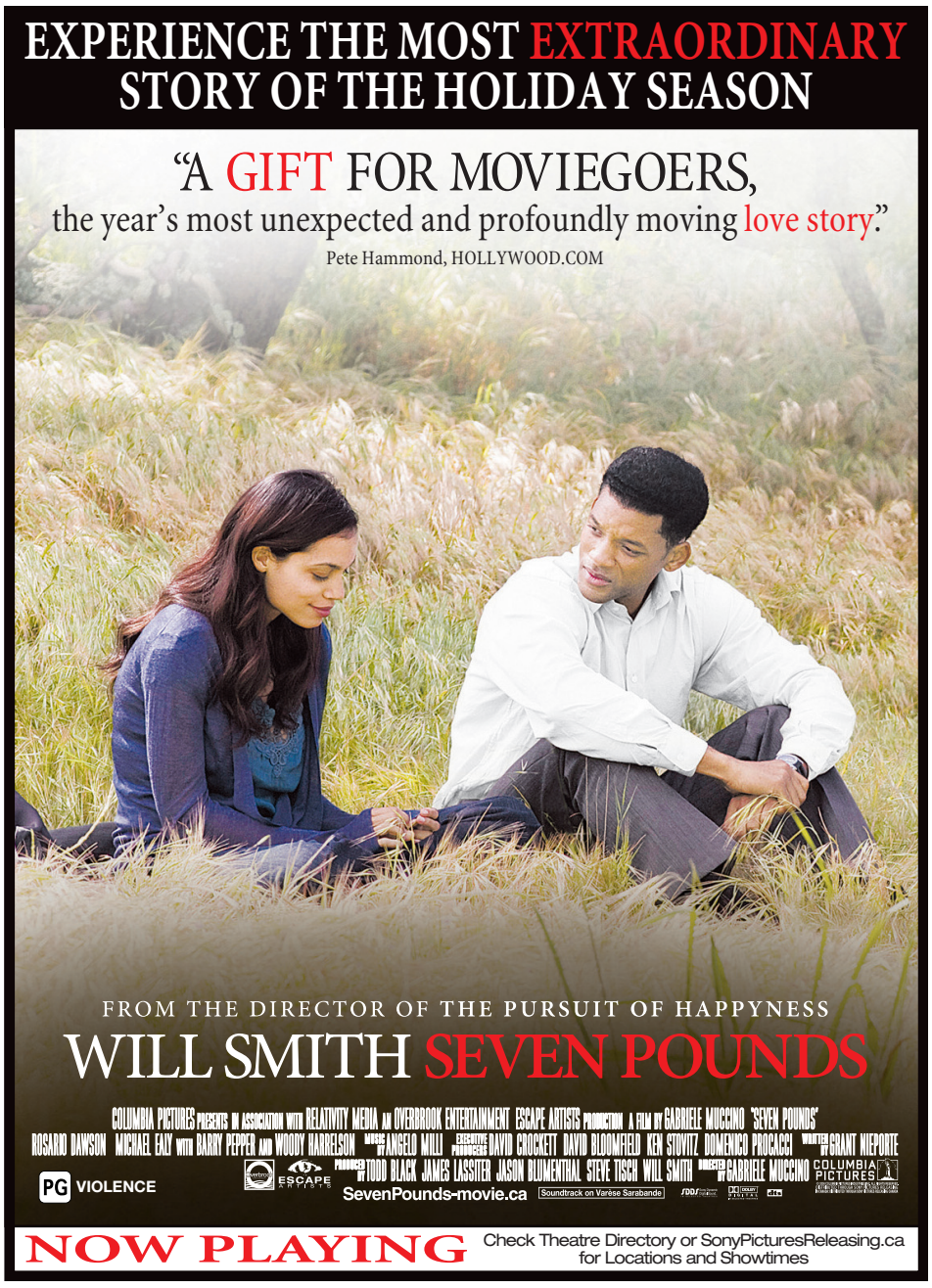
Closed for Renovations

SILVERCITY METROPOLIS
4700 Kingsway Ave., 604-435-7474

Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:30-3:20-7:05-10 Mon-Thu 12:30-3:20-7:05-10
Bolt (G) Fri-Thu 12-2:30-5
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:25-4:15-8 Mon-Thu 12:25-4:15-8
The Day the Earth Stood Still (STC) Fri-Wed 1-3:45-7:30-10:10 Thu 1-3:45-10:10
Marley & Me (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:10-3:15-6:30-9:45 Mon-Thu 12:10-3:15-6:30-9:45
Quantum of Solace (14A) Fri-Thu 7:30-10:10
Seven Pounds (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:20-3:30-6:55-10 Mon-Thu 12:20-3:30-6:55-10
The Spirit (14A) Fri-Thu 12:05-3:05-7:20-10:05
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Fri 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:45-10:05 No Passes Sat 12:30-2:45-5:15-7:45-10:05 No Passes Sun 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:45-10:05 Mon-Thu 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:45-10:05
Twilight (PG) Fri-Thu 12:15-3:10-6:50-9:40
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:40-4-7:10-10:15 Mon-Thu 12:40-4-7:10-10:15

STATION SQUARE
220-6200 McKay Ave., 604-434-7711

Australia (PG) Fri 4:35-7:45 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:35-7:45 Mon-Thu 4:35-7:45
Changeling (14A) Fri 4:25-7:10-9:55 Sat 1:35-4:25-7:10-9:55 Sun 1:35-4:25-7:10 Mon-Thu 4:25-7:10
Four Christmases (PG) Fri 5-7:35-9:50 Sat 2:05-5-7:35-9:50 Sun 2:05-5-7:35 Mon-Thu 5-7:35
High School Musical 3: Senior Year (G) Fri 4:55 Sat-Sun 2-4:55 Mon-Thu 4:55
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri 4:40-7:05 Sat 1:50-4:40-7:05 Sun 1:50-4:40 Mon-Thu 4:40
Punisher: War Zone (18A) Fri-Sat 7:30-10:10 Sun-Thu 7:30
Role Models (14A) Fri-Sat 9:45 Sun-Thu 7:05
Transporter 3 (14A) Fri 4:45-7:15-10 Sat 1:55-4:45-7:15-10 Sun 1:55-4:45-7:15 Mon-Thu 4:45-7:15
Valkyrie (PG) Fri 4:50-7:25-10:05 Sat 1:45-4:50-7:25-10:05 Sun 1:45-4:50-7:25 Mon-Thu 4:50-7:25



Top 5 CDs according to Amazon.ca
1. Day And Age, The Killers; 2. The Priests, The Priests; 3. A Winter Symphony, Sarah Brightman; 4. Funhouse, Pink; 5. Soul, Seal. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Music

See-through lives of indie rock

Amos The Transparent lets its fans in on every aspect of the music outfit's travels

BRIAN TOWIE
brian.towie@metronews.ca

Amos The Transparent's sound has been on frontman Jonathan Chandler mind for a long time.

The term "Transparent" in Amos The Transparent couldn't stick better.

The Ottawa-based indie rock outfit takes its fans beyond the music, posting videos of their adventures touring across the country and recording in-studio on their website. Hours stuck in traffic singing Celine Dion songs (ironically, of course!), fussing over stacks of ready-made grocery store pies, sound checks on short notice — the life of a travelling band can be a rough one.

"Being in a band means nothing nowadays and it's not glorious. Your grandmother could be in a band," says Amos creator and frontman Jonathan Chandler. "So we thought it would be a fun, experimental thing to do that no one's really done before."

On Celine Dion he adds, "That was our bass player (James Nicol). You can only cycle through Kings of Leon so many times."

But indie rock lovers are cycling through Amos The Transparent more and more. Their experimental arrangements on debut Everything I've Forgotten To Forget, based in folky acoustic melodies and classic rock, have gone over well with audiences at venues across the land — some including openers for Polaris Prize winner Patrick Watson.

"I would say that it's pretty hard to classify our music, or any kind of indie rock."
Jonathan Chandler

Amy Millan of the Stars — birthed in part by music collective Broken Social Scene, which Amos The Transparent has been compared with — took notice of the band after a 2006 Bluesfest show in Ottawa, which led to a album guest star spot on track After All That It's Come To This.

"I would say that it's pretty hard to classify our music, or any kind of indie rock for that matter," Chandler said. "Certainly to Broken Social Scene, which I think happened because we originally started with eight people and they're such a large group too."

However you classify Amos' sound (if you indeed do), it has existed for a long time, at least in Chandler's head. He kept his vision to himself while playing in The Architects, another Ottawa indie pop outfit, whose modus operandi was to take a bandmate's song idea, play around with it and shape it into something else entirely.

"I never intended for it to be released," he said. "But I demoed it for fun and (drummer) Chris Wilson heard it and said, 'You have to do something with these songs.'"

In the meantime, Chandler plans to release more for an exclusively digital EP in late January, which he says is the reason we haven't seen any recent online docs. But fans take note: they're on their way.

"We're tampering with new interesting stuff," he says.

For a link to the band's website check out Metronews.ca/music

Top prospects for 2009 music season

SoundCheck

alan@ongoinghistory.com

Wondering who's going to rock your world in 2009? Here are some possibilities:

LAND OF TALK: Female-fronted, Montreal-based band has a chance at being a Big Deal in 2009, especially since Metric has taken so long to release their next record. Singer Elizabeth Powell has something special going on.

DEAD CONFEDERATE: Fuzzy, spacey band managed by the same folks who fostered a little band called "Nirvana" back in the day. Not your typical Georgia band.

FRANZ FERDINAND: Their third record, Tonight: Franz Ferdinand, will be out on the 27th. I've heard it and I like it a lot. The flourishes from Soviet-era synthesizers are a nice touch.

FIGHT LIKE APES: Insanely raw group from Dublin that is about as far from U2 as you can get. The singer's name is Maykay. She might be crazy, but I already adore her. Pre-order their debut album now.

LUDO: St. Louis post-emo group that reminds me of a young Weezer. Cheeky and clever.

U2: Hopes and wishes are that No Line on the Horizon (due March 3) will revitalize the record and concert industry during these times of economic woe. Not that they haven't been drafted into doing that before (See Achtung Baby, Pop and All That You Can't Leave Behind).

GUNS N' ROSES: What if — and this doesn't take too much imagination — Axl wakes up one morning and realizes the best way to channel his genius is through Slash's guitar? And maybe Izzy Stradlin isn't doing anything terrible important and also has a cash flow problem? If you put enough money on the table, anything's possible.

SANTOGOLD: When I saw Santi White and her crew open for Coldplay last year, I wasn't moved. Not a bit. Nothing. I've since had a change of heart. There's a weird mix of indie rock and electronica going on her that I really like.

TING TINGS: Now that the White Stripes made two-piece bands cool, many groups — DFA 1979, Black Keys, Dresden Dolls, One Day as a Lion — have cut down on overhead and eliminated the fluffy bits. (Oddly, among these groups, drummers have yet to be downsized, laid-off or outsourced.) Of this bunch, I vote for the Ting Tings, probably because singer Katie White is so damned hot.

COLDPLAY: They conquered the world — again — in 2008.

Now what?

Franz Ferdinand's third album could be one of the big releases of 2009, writes Alan Cross.

The Ongoing History of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read the daily Music Geek blog at ongoinghistory.com

Metro recommends

- **BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB, LIVE AT CARNEGIE HALL:** The Cuban collective's exuberant live performance is caught on tape on only the second album featuring the original members ever released.

- **FALL OUT BOY, FOLIE À DEUX:** Chicago pop-punk outfit sheds emo handcuffs, adds a little prog rock and gets some help from Debbie Harry and Lil Wayne on its fifth studio offering.
- **FEMI KUTI, DAY BY DAY:** The son of legendary African musician Fela Kuti delivers an irresistible collection of danceable Afrobeat cuts.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Michael Pitt signs up for Scorsese pilot
Actor Michael Pitt is in final negotiations to join Steve Buscemi in Boardwalk Empire, Martin Scorsese's drama pilot for HBO about the 1920s origins of Atlantic City. Pitt plays a ruthless flunky, while Buscemi plays a liquor-smuggling businessman. REUTERS

Television

Viacom and Time Warner battle over channel access

DISPUTE Viacom Inc. and Time Warner Cable were at a standoff on Wednesday, but hoped that top executives would step in to resolve a dispute that threatens to prevent more than 13 million U.S. subscribers from seeing shows like Dora the Explorer and Jon Stewart's The Daily Show.

At issue is an extra $35 million US to $40 million US that Viacom wants Time Warner to pay for carrying its cable channels, including MTV, Comedy Central and Nickelodeon.

Time Warner has refused, saying the economic climate makes it impossible to pass along such costs to its customers. Viacom has denied Time Warner's request for an extension of the current terms.

Instead, Viacom threatened to pull its TV networks from Time Warner at midnight on Jan. 1 unless a deal was reached.

REUTERS

Entertainment in brief

SPINOFF Not all fans of The Hills appear ready to move to The City. The premiere of MTV's Hills spinoff, which follows Whitney Port as she relocates to New York to take on a new job, averaged 1.6 million total viewers. That's a dropoff from the Season 4 finale of The Hills, which averaged 2.6 million viewers in the time slot the previous week. (Both The Hills finale and The City premiere aired during holiday weeks.) REUTERS

ARREST Actor Matt Dillon was arrested and charged with speeding after police clocked him traveling at 106 m.p.h. on a Vermont highway. Dillon was pulled over at about 10 p.m. Tuesday in the town of Newbury after he was caught on police radar traveling north at high speed in a rented Chevrolet Impala. If convicted at his Jan. 21 court date, he faces a maximum penalty of three months in jail and a $300 fine. REUTERS

When I wish upon a TV star...

IntelleVision

TRYING TO LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE: Another year has begun, and the paucity of TV news means lots of retrospective and anticipatory themes from columnists, so why should I be any different? Alan Sepinwall of the New Jersey Star-Ledger took time to take Shonda Rhimes, Tim Kring, the writers on House, Amy Sherman-Palladino and Jeff Zucker to task for, retrospectively, this season of Grey's Anatomy, this season of Heroes, the character of Remy (Thirteen) Hadley, The Return Of Jezebel James and the decision to abandon the 10 p.m. weekday time slot to Jay Leno's new show.

Over at televisionwithoutpity.com, Angel Cohn

CTV PHOTO

Grace Park as Sharon Agathon on Battlestar Galactica.

fervently wished for more Simon on American Idol, more fun on Heroes, a less annoying Pam on The Office, some real A-list stars on Dancing With The Stars, and some personality for Anna Torv's Olivia on Fringe. Reading over her list made me wonder a) that Fringe didn't get cancelled after three episodes, and b) that TV columnists sure watch a hell of a lot of TV.

Zap2it.com's TV critic Rick Porter made nine resolutions for the industry, wishing that CBS could wean itself off of police procedurals, that Fox could come up with a good comedy that wasn't a cartoon, that HBO can make a break from "the dense, somber shows the channel has tried out in the past couple years" (I disagree, but whatever,) and that NBC can "rediscover its soul," instead of programming based on profit margins from mediocre but mysteriously profitable shows. Good luck on that one.

Porter also wishes that Battlestar Galactica, about to head into the last half of its farewell season, will get a bit more respect from the industry. "None of the show's fine ensemble of actors has ever sniffed an Emmy or Golden Globe nomination," Porter writes, "and it counts no series honors and only a couple of writing and directing Emmy nods."

I'd second that, especially since Galactica is a prime example of exactly the sort of show no major network or "quality cable" outlet like HBO would ever get behind, despite the fact that shows like Galactica are probably the future of TV — genre-defying, intensely addictive, and wildly influential for at least the next few years. Beyond that, the only thing I'm hoping to see in the new year is a new series of Metalocalypse and those overdue Mary Tyler Moore Show box sets.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

GlobalStyle

Catch Metro's best- and worst-dressed list, exclusively at metronews.ca/globalstyle

See complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and purchase tickets at metronews.ca/movies

Welcome to the Langara Family YMCA
OPEN HOUSE
Free to everyone in the community
Saturday, January 3, 2009
Time: 11am–3pm
Sign up in January
SAVE $50
The first 150 to sign up also receive a quality hoodie! ($50 value)
Sign up for a membership on January 3rd, and receive FREE towel service for one year!
Family rates available
LANGARA FAMILY YMCA
282 West 49th Avenue,
Vancouver, BC V5Y 2Z5
Tel: 604-324-9622
Fax: 604-324-6152
www.vanymca.org
YMCA
We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.
Bring your bathing suit and work out gear and spend the day at our facility! Try out our equipment, group fitness classes, including yoga, and pool!
Everyone is welcome to join us for refreshments.
All new and current members will have the chance to enter their names for amazing door prizes, on Jan 3rd:
• 3 months free membership
• 1 week spring break camp
• 1 week free summer camp
• 5 private swimming lessons
• 4 personal training sessions
• And much,much more

Learn What the Rich Already Know About Money at Our
FREE LOCAL EVENT
RICH DAD POOR DAD
My Poor Dad was educated and intelligent.
He completed four years of undergraduate work in less than two years. He then went on to receive his Ph.D... all on full financial scholarships.
My Rich Dad never finished the eighth grade.
Both men were successful in their careers, working hard all their lives. Both earned substantial incomes.
Yet my highly educated dad struggled financially all his life and the other dad would become one of the richest men I had ever known.
One died leaving tens of millions of dollars to his family, charities, and his church. The other left a legacy of unpaid bills. Both men were strong, charismatic, and influential.
Both men offered me advice, but they did not advise the same things.
My two dads offered me the perspective of contrasting points of view: a rich man's view and a poor man's view. This forced me to think about, and ultimately choose, a new way of thinking for myself. A way of thinking that assures financial security and prosperity! Now, through my books and workshops, I can share my mindset with anyone interested in mastering the Rich Dad® way of thinking – and use it to create true long-term wealth.
FREE Learn To Be Rich™ Workshop
Based on the Book & Teachings of World Famous Author Robert Kiyosaki
COMING TO THE VANCOUVER AREA ON JANUARY 6, 7, 8 OR 9
CALL NOW TO REGISTER 1-800-988-6572
Receive a FREE CD-ROM! "RICH DAD'S® BUDGETING YOUR MONEY" An excerpt from Robert's new best seller, Rich Dad's Increase your Financial IQ.
It's YOURS FREE at the workshop!
Robert Kiyosaki does not participate in this event.
RICH DAD'S EDUCATION
The Rich Dad's® word mark and logos are owned by CASHFLOW Technologies, Inc. and any use of such marks by Rich Dad Education Ltd is under license. Additional products and services will be offered for sale. © 2008 Rich Dad Education Ltd. All rights reserved. RDE0236 v2 7-08

Trading Spaces designer arrested

Entertainment Tonight is reporting that Doug Wilson, a designer on the popular cable home makeover show Trading Spaces, was arrested in Illinois on Tuesday on suspicion of aggravated DUI, and numerous other driver offences. MSN.COM

Entertainment

GETTY IMAGES PHOTO

Heath Ledger was voted the biggest movie news story of 2008 as well as most missed star and best villain in an AOL poll.

Ledger tops '08 poll

Actor's life and performances honoured by voters

Australian actor Heath Ledger beat all comers in a 2008 movie poll released on Thursday, sweeping the biggest news story, most missed star and best villain categories thanks to his posthumous hit film The Dark Knight.

Ledger, whose death at age 28 last January of an accidental prescription drugs overdose shocked the world, was voted the biggest movie news story of 2008 by 83 per cent of votes in the poll by AOL's online movie site Moviefone.com.

The actor also topped the list of movie stars voters will most miss after their deaths, edging out the late Paul Newman by 56 to 20 per cent of votes.

Ledger has won Golden Globe and Screen Actors Guild nominations for his supporting actor role as The Joker in the Batman move The Dark Knight, which was released six months after his death.

The Dark Knight, the biggest-grossing box office movie worldwide of 2008, easily won the best action movie and movie most worth your cash in the Moviefone poll.

But teen vampire movie Twilight, a favorite with young girls around the world, gave Ledger and The Dark Knight a run for the money.

Twilight beat Sex and the City as the best chick flick of 2008, while actor Robert Pattinson was voted breakout star of the year and Pattinson and his Twilight co-star Kristen Stewart won the best on-screen couple with 41 per cent of votes.

Sexiest babe of 2008 and best nude scene went to Angelina Jolie for the action movie Wanted and Jolie also topped the poll as the actress with the best multiple performances of 2008 for Wanted, The Changeling, and Kung Fu Panda.

But Jolie and her partner Brad Pitt came second to Will and Jada Pinkett Smith as the best off-screen couple with 32 per cent and 38 per cent of votes respectively.

The Mike Myers comedy The Love Guru was deemed the worst movie of 2008 by 40 per cent of voters, with Paris Hilton's performance in Repo! The Genetic Opera heading the list of stars with the worst performances.

REUTERS

Going forward

• Looking ahead, Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince, out in July 2009, was the most anticipated movie followed by the latest X-Men instalment X-Men Origins: Wolverine.

FRIDAY

VA	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 1/2/09	251	308	3	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Air Farce New Year's Eve		Just for Laughs (CC)		CBC News: The National (N)		The Hour
	255	358	6	JOY	TV Made	Tube Tales	Love Sick: Secrets of a Sex Addict (2008) Sally Pressman.				Mysteries	Ad Persuasion	News (N)
	250	321	9	CTV	Corner Gas	Hollywood	Ghost Whisperer (CC)		Sticks and Stones (2008) David Sutcliffe. (CC) (DVS)				News (N)
	252	336	11	GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Accidental Friendship (2008) Chandra Wilson. Premiere. (CC)				Lilith on Top (CC)		News (N)
	256	389	12	VI	Anne of Green Gables: The Continuing Story ★★ (2000)				Supernanny "Park Family"		Stargate Atlantis		News (CC)
	253	359	13	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Murdoch Mysteries		Lipstick Jungle (N) (CC)		Crusoe (CC)		EP Daily
	-	-	14	CW	Deal-No Deal	Deal-No Deal	Hates Chris	The Game	Hates Chris	The Game	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15	CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Ghost Whisperer (CC)		Ghost Whisperer (CC)		NUMB3RS "Chinese Box"		News (N)
	287	379	16	NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	Deal or No Deal (iTV) (N)		Lipstick Jungle (N) (CC)		Dateline NBC (CC)		News (N)
	288	380	21	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Wife Swap (CC)		Hope in Their Hands: Nurses		20/20 (N) (CC)		KOMO 4 News
	290	382	23	FOX	College Football Allstate Sugar Bowl -- Alabama vs. Utah.				Postgame	Family Guy	News (N) (CC)		Family Guy
family sports news	502	390	26	NW	CBC News: the fifth estate		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National		CBC News: the fifth estate		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
	407	419	22	RSP	Sportsnet	NHL Hockey Vancouver Canucks at Atlanta Thrashers. (Subject to Blackout)					Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30	TSN	SportsCentre (Live) (CC)			Madden	Boxing Evander Holyfield vs. Nikolay Valuev. (CC)				SportsCentre
	552	543	25	YTV	H2O: The Movie (2008) Cariba Heine, Claire Holt. (CC)				Falcon Beach (CC)		Dark Oracle	Mystery Hnt.	Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	50	TEL	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6teen (CC)	6teen	Misadventures	Futurama	Father	Chicken	Life's a Zoo
cable variety	268	354	5	KNO	Hockey: A People's History		Poirot (N) (CC)		Dalziel & Pascoe Pascoe links war medals to crime. (CC)				Sombrio
	575	583	20	CMT	CMT Star Crossed		Johnny Cash Memorial Tribute				CMT Star Crossed		Johnny Cash
	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami "Death Pool 100"		Criminal Minds (CC)		CSI: Miami "Rio" (CC)		CSI: Miami "Going Under"		CSI: Miami
	521	560	34	TLC	Miss America: Countdown		What Not to Wear "Cathy"		Miss America: Countdown		What Not to Wear "Michelle"		Real Simple
	616	522	39	SHO	The Best Years		The Guard (CC)		Testees (CC)	Kenny-Spenny	Webdreams	Webdreams	Sin Cities
	294	650	47	TBS	(6:00) Diary of a Mad Black Woman ★★ (CC)			Sex and-City	Sex and-City		The Prince & Me ★★ (2004) Julia Stiles, Luke Mably. (CC)		
	603	561	52	FN	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In
	320	621	60	CEN	Sanctuary "Revelations" (N)		Drillbit Taylor ★★ (2008) Owen Wilson. (CC)		(:45) Definitely, Maybe ★★★ (2008) Ryan Reynolds.				
	581	566	101	MTV	The City	The City	After	Girls-Latitude	A Double Shot of Love		The City	The City	Made (CC)

SATURDAY

VA	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 1/3/09	251	308	3	CBC	NHL Hockey Dallas Stars at Edmonton Oilers. From Rexall Place in Edmonton.					HNIC -- After Hours		News (CC)	HNIC Replay
	255	358	6	JOY	TV Made	The Soup	TBA	Behind	Mom, Dad and Her (2008) Melora Hardin, Paul McGillion. (CC)				News (N)
	250	321	9	CTV	NFL Football: AFC Wild-Card		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		News (N)
	252	336	11	GTV	Branded: Saving Our Town		Zero Hour (CC)		Mob Stories "Unto the Son"		Go Deep Mississippi River.		News (N)
	256	389	12	VI	Anne of Green Gables: The Continuing Story ★★ (2000)				Stargate Atlantis		Stargate Atlantis		Bravo! Fact
	253	359	13	CITY	Survivorman (CC)		Crusoe (CC)		Killer Bees (2002) C. Thomas Howell, Fiona Loewi. (CC) (DVS)				Role
	-	-	14	CW	CSI: NY "Jamalot" (CC)		Boston Legal (CC)		Boston Legal "Fat Burner"		CSI: NY "Trapped" (CC)		CSI: Miami
	289	381	15	CBS	Entertainment Tonight (N)		Game Show	Game Show	Cold Case "Boy Crazy" (CC)		48 Hours Mystery "Betrayal"		News (N)
	287	379	16	NBC	NFL Football: AFC Wild-Card		M. Holmgren	Backroads	Northwest Newsmakers		Dateline NBC (CC)		News (N)
	288	380	21	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	Sleepless in Seattle ★★★ (1993, Romance-Comedy) Tom Hanks, Meg Ryan, Bill Pullman.						KOMO 4 News
	290	382	23	FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Cops (CC)	Cops (CC)	America's Most Wanted		News (N)	Most Wanted	MADtv (CC)
family sports news	502	390	26	NW	Obama Goes to Africa (CC)		Sat. Report	Scene	Sat. Report	Mansbridge	Obama Goes to Africa (CC)		Sat. Report
	500	500	33	CNN	D.L. Hughley-News		Special Investigations		Larry King Live		D.L. Hughley-News		Investigations
	407	419	22	RSP	World Combat League (CC)		World Combat League (CC)		The Ultimate Fighter		Sportsnet Connected		Poker
	400	400	30	TSN	SportsCentre (Live) (CC)			NFL Films	Madden	NFL	Best of This Is SportsCenter		SportsCentre
	552	543	25	YTV	Wolverine	Transformers	Avatar	Avatar	Avatar	Avatar	Storm Hawks	Dark Oracle	Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	50	TEL	Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed ★★ (2004) (CC)				Johnny Test	Futurama	Aeon Flux ★★ (2005) Charlize Theron. (CC)		
cable variety	268	354	5	KNO	Science of Dogs (CC)		Heartbeat (CC)		Midsomer Murders "Four Funerals and a Wedding" (N) (CC)				Montreal Jazz
	575	583	20	CMT	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Garth Brooks: Kansas City Concert (CC)			Totally "Garth Brooks"		Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith
	615	520	31	A&E	The Sopranos (CC)		The Sopranos "Two Tonys"		CSI: Miami "Breathless"		CSI: Miami "Slaughterhouse"		The Sopranos
	521	560	34	TLC	The Real Estate Pros (CC)		My First Home	My First Home	My First Home	My First Home	The Real Estate Pros (CC)		My First Home
	616	522	39	SHO	About a Girl	Kink in Hair	Loch Ness ★★ (1996) Ted Danson, Joely Richardson. (CC)				Spider-Man 2 ★★★ (2004) Tobey Maguire.		
	294	650	47	TBS	(6:30) Doom ★★ (2005) (PA) The Rock. (CC)			Die Hard With a Vengeance ★★★ (1995, Action) (PA) Bruce Willis. (CC)					Doom ★★
	603	561	52	FN	Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Unwrapped
	320	621	60	CEN	Cinderella St.	Hairspray	Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins ★★ (2008) Premiere.				Casino Royale ★★★ (2006) Daniel Craig.		
	581	566	101	MTV	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	MTV Live	MTV News	After

SUNDAY

VA	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 1/4/09	251	308	3	CBC	Heartland "True Enough" (N)		Chronicles of Narnia: Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe				Chronicles of Narnia		News (CC)
	255	358	6	JOY	Mysteries	Mysteries	Extreme Makeover: Home		Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy ★★ (2004) (CC)				News (CC)
	250	321	9	CTV	TBA	TBA	Big Bang Th	Samantha	Desperate Housewives (N)		(:01) The Mentalist (N) (CC)		News (N)
	252	336	11	GTV	16:9 Picture	King of Hill	24: Redemption (2008) Kiefer Sutherland, Cherry Jones. (CC)				Brothers & Sisters (N) (CC)		News (N)
	256	389	12	VI	Funniest Home Videos		Million Dollar Password (N)		Cold Case "Lotto Fever" (N)		Stargate Atlantis "The Siege"		New Canoe
	253	359	13	CITY	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Die Another Day ★★ (2002, Action) Pierce Brosnan, Halle Berry. (CC)					Less-Kind	Role
	-	-	14	CW	Jericho "9:02" (CC)		Trail of the Pink Panther ★ (1982) Peter Sellers, David Niven.				Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Cold Case
	289	381	15	CBS	60 Minutes (CC)		Million Dollar Password (N)		Cold Case "Lotto Fever" (N)		The Unit "Bad Beat" (CC)		News (N)
	287	379	16	NBC	Saturday Night Live Sports Extra (N) (PA) (CC)				Superstars of Dance (Series Premiere) (N) (CC)				News (N)
	288	380	21	ABC	Funniest Home Videos		Extreme Makeover: Home		Desperate Housewives (N)		(:01) Brothers & Sisters (N)		KOMO 4 News
	290	382	23	FOX	American Dad	American Dad	24: Redemption (2008) Kiefer Sutherland, Cherry Jones. (CC)				News (N)	Q It Up Sports	House (CC)
family sports news	502	390	26	NW	An Inconvenient Truth ★★★ (2006) Premiere. (CC)				CBC News: Sunday Night		An Inconvenient Truth ★★★ (2006) (CC)		
	500	500	33	CNN	Newsroom		D.L. Hughley-News		Larry King Live		D.L. Hughley-News		Investigations
	407	419	22	RSP	Best Damn Red Bull Air Race		Saturday Night Poker		To Be Announced		Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30	TSN	Hockey: U-17	SportsCentre (Live) (CC)			Motoring 2009	NFL	Rodeo: PRCA National Finals		SportsCentre
	552	543	25	YTV	(6:00) Roll Bounce ★★ (2005) Bow Wow.			Prank Patrol	The Next Star "The Single"		Falcon Beach (CC)		Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	50	TEL	George	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show		Wayside	Johnny Test	Futurama	Batman Returns ★★ (1992) Michael Keaton.		
cable variety	268	354	5	KNO	Wall of Death (CC)		Doc Martin "On the Edge" (N)		The Whistleblowers (CC)		Dalziel & Pascoe "Exit Lines"		Montreal Jazz
	575	583	20	CMT	Prairie Town		CMT's Greatest		Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Johnny Cash Memorial Tribute		
	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami "Inside Out"		CSI: Miami (CC)		CSI: Miami "Dangerous Son"		CSI: Miami "Cyber-lebrity"		CSI: Miami
	521	560	34	TLC	48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours
	616	522	39	SHO	The Guard (CC)		A Daughter's Conviction (2006) Brooke Nevin, Kate Jackson.				Ocean's Twelve ★★★ (2004) Premiere.		
	294	650	47	TBS	Independence	(:45) Independence Day ★★★ (1996, Science Fiction) (PA) Will Smith, Bill Pullman. (CC)						(:45) King Kong ★★★ (2005)	
	603	561	52	FN	Kylie Kwong	Kylie Kwong	Kylie Kwong	Kylie Kwong	Kylie Kwong	Kylie Kwong	Kylie Kwong	Kylie Kwong	Kylie Kwong
	320	621	60	CEN	(6:15) First Sunday ★★ (CC)		P.S. I Love You ★★ (2007) Hilary Swank. Premiere.				(:05) We Are Marshall ★★ (2006) (CC)		
	581	566	101	MTV	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	After	Girls-Latitude	Made "Ballroom Dancer"		Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	After

Pepsi and Beckham decide to part ways

ENDORSEMENT Pepsi said last Wednesday it is ending its endorsement relationship with English soccer star David Beckham after 10 years in a move described as mutual by both sides.

"We wish David well with the many projects he is pursuing and look forward to the possibility of partnering together with him again someday," the soft drink maker said in a statement.

Beckham, who plays for the Major League Soccer team Los Angeles Galaxy and is currently on loan to AC Milan in Italy, said he had nothing but good memories of his years pitching Pepsi.

"I hope everyone who has seen the work Pepsi and I have done together enjoyed it as much as I enjoyed making it and, who knows, there may yet be another chapter in this long relationship," he said in a statement.

Terms of Beckham's deal were not disclosed, but Britain's Daily Mail newspaper said the contract was worth 2-million pounds ($3.6 million) a year. Beckham, 33, one of the world's best known soccer stars, touted Pepsi in commercials over the years dressed as a cowboy, a surfer and a gladiator.

REUTERS

www.IWantMyHolidayBonus.com
BRITISH COLUMBIA Honda DEALERS www.BCHonda.com
HONDA

G4S Group 4 Securicor
G4S Security Services (Canada) Ltd.
The Leading International Security Provider
FT & PT positions
Must have BST 1 & 2
604-661-0313 fax: 604-683-0621
email: kevin.paxman@ca.g4s.com

Madonna, Dion the top concert draws of 2008
Madonna and Celine Dion were the biggest worldwide concert draws in 2008, each selling more than $200 million US worth of tickets to their slickly produced shows, trade publication Pollstar said Tuesday. REUTERS

Going Out

Mix of Six

HOT & HAPPENING WEEKEND EVENTS AROUND THE CITY
For more great events around the city, visit: **metronews.ca/entertainment**

Bright nights
When: Friday and Saturday, 3 to 10 p.m.
Where: Stenley Park

More than a million twinkling lights transform the forest, train and Children's Farmyard in Stanley Park. Admission to the miniature train plaza is free; tickets to the train are $8 for adults and $5 for children and seniors.

Festival of Lights
When: Friday to Sunday, 4:30 to 9 p.m.
Where: VanDusen Botanical Garden

A dazzling lights show, magician David Wilson, choir concerts and more than 1.4 million lights will enthrall visitors as part of this yearly event. Tickets are $6 to $11 and can be purchased at the gate.

Giants take on Red Deer Rebels
When: Friday, 7:30 p.m.
Where: Pacific Coliseum

The Vancouver Giants — undefeated throughout December — take on the Red Deer Rebels at Pacific Coliseum. Tickets to this Western Hockey League clash are $18.50/16.50 and can be purchased at ticketmaster.ca.

Bill Reid: Master of Haida Art
When: Until Jan. 11
Where: Gallery of Northwest Coast Art

This exhibition captures Bill Reid's journey using his own art, stories and film. Highlights include Mythic Messengers, a 6.5-metre bronze frieze that was relatively unknown until now.

Beauty and the Beast
When: Friday and Sunday
Where: Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage

It's the final weekend to catch Beauty and the Beast at the Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage. This fairy-tale spectacle thrills audiences with show-stopping musical numbers, astonishing sets and lavish costumes.

It's a Wonderful Life
When: Friday and Saturday
Where: Granville Island Stage

In this holiday heart-warmer, George Bailey's guardian angel swoops in to remind him that faith, hope and family make life truly wonderful. This will be the show's final weekend at the Granville Island Stage. Visit artsclub.com for more information.

Metro's 7th Heaven: Metro taps what's hot right now

1 Valkyrie
Tom Cruise's Valkyrie is doing better than expected. The Second World War thriller earned $21.5 million last weekend and $30 million over four days since its Christmas Day release.

2 Nail resolution
Thinking of starting the new year with a promise to yourself? Britney Spears' New Year's resolution is to stop biting her nails and take better care of her hands, but she won't be too hard on herself if she fails, femalefirst.co.uk reports. Actress Joanna Page also made the same resolution this year.

3 Christmas with the folks
It seems everyone has been spending time with relatives this holiday season — even the stars. Acting brothers Matt and Kevin Dillon are famous, but they've never missed a Christmas at home with their parents and four other siblings, PageSix.com reports.

4 Entertainer of the Year
Actress Tina Fey was voted as The Associated Press' Entertainer of the Year. AP members chose the 30 Rock star and Saturday Night Live Sarah Palin spoofer as the performer who had a greatest impact on culture and entertainment in 2008.

5 Intuition
Jamie Foxx finished 2009 on a high note. The album Intuition, which came out last week, debuted at No. 3 on the Billboard 200 album chart. It was the week's top debut.

6 Buff president
Barack Obama has created quite a stir after he was photographed shirtless while vacationing in Hawaii last month. The soon-to-be president is one of the few leaders of the world with a pretty nice physique.

7 Across the border
Mexico was the place to be this New Year's. Star Jennifer Aniston ushered in 2009 with Courtney Cox Arquette and her beau, while George Clooney, Kid Rock and Cindy Crawford caught some rays, tmz.com reports.

The best and worst of celebrity gossip in 2008

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

It's a sex, sleaze and crack cocaine cocktail! Join us as Metro looks back at the (literal and figurative) highs and lows of celebrity gossip in 2008.

BUMPING UGLIES Lindsay Lohan kissed a girl and she liked it. Surely the height of celebrity courtship was the unexpected romance between the post-rehab flickering starlet and English DJ Samantha Ronson. Following months of speculation, Lohan confirmed their affinity in September, to the disapproval of her famously temperamental father Michael. The love bug also bit alluring actress Scarlett Johansson and Vancouver's Ryan Reynolds, who got hitched in the city in May. And, in less monogamous meandering, Madonna celebrated 50 big ones by laying a big one on Yankee Alex Rodriguez. He maintains they're just friends. But Madge's alleged baseball fling may have precipitated her divorce from British filmmaker Guy Ritchie. The couple split after eight years in October.

REHAB REVELATIONS Ex-X-Files star David Duchovny's wife, actress Tea Leoni, tried to make him go to rehab … and he willingly obliged. His coincidental admittance for sex addiction (which bears striking similarity to his oversexed writer character on Showtime's Californication) was the first in a series of unexpected celebrity rehab visits. Eva Mendes checked into a Utah facility in February once frequented by Lindsay Lohan, and was later joined by Spider-Man's Kirsten Dunst. Melrose Place alumnus Heather Locklear wasn't far behind. She was admitted in June, but her month-long stay didn't prevent her from being charged with a DUI in September.

MINI ME'S Joining the ranks of Apple Blythe Alison Martin and Moon Unit Zappa this year were a host of celebrity babies whose parents only wish to inflict formative peer trauma on their little ones. Nicole Kidman and Keith Urban brought us daughter Sunday Rose Kidman Urban in July, while Gwen Stefani and Gavin Rossdale's second boy, Zuma Nesta Rock Rossdale, arrived in August. The out-of-nowhere award goes to 17-year-old Jamie Lynn Spears and fiancé Casey Aldridge, who gave us Maddie Briann Aldrige in June, while the saw-it-coming award belongs to Brangelina and their twins Knox Leon and Vivienne Marcheline Jolie Pitt, who graced us in July.

(GETTING) BETTER GIRL For once, Britney Spears didn't do it again! In 2008, the singer regained visitation rights to her children, glowingly guest-starred on CBS' How I Met Your Mother, and won three MTV Video Music and two MTV Europe Music Awards. Her single Womanizer, from her new album Circus, reached top spot on the Billboard Hot 100 – her first No. 1 since her debut album.

(GETTING) WORSE GIRL Whoever thought Amy Winehouse could take a page from Spears' book? Despite a Grammy sweep and semi-redeeming performance at the awards show, the troubled English songstress stayed in the headlines for frequent drug use, public outbursts and generally erratic behaviour. Hospitalization didn't seem to help very much, but some are hoping her recent split from beloved beau "Blaaaaaake" Fielder-Civil will finally do the trick.

New Year's engagement
American Idol star Gina Glocksen said, "I do," to her longtime boyfriend, school teacher Joe Ruzicka, on New Year's Eve, people.com has confirmed. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Richie hoping for baby No. 2

FAMILY It's baby time again for Nicole Richie and her rocker boyfriend, Joel Madden, starmagazine.com is reporting.

The Jan. 12 issue of the magazine reports that as their daughter Harlow gets ready to celebrate her first birthday, reformed party girl Nicole is taking vitamins, eating healthy and designing trendy maternity wear in preparation for her second pregnancy.

"Nicole simply told Joel that she wants another baby — right away," a friend confides to Star. "He was a little overwhelmed at first, but now he's with her 100 per cent. They're both thrilled about adding to their family."

And, after overcoming a rocky period in their relationship, the couple seems to be in a good place to expand their family.

Nicole and Joel went through a "rough patch, but now things are amazing between them," says a source. "Nicole knows it's because they're both so happy with Harlow, and she truly believes another baby will double their commitment."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Latifah targeted in jewelry theft

PEOPLE Paris Hilton is not the only recent celebrity victim of jewelry theft — this time, thieves have gone after items belonging to Queen Latifah, msn.com reports.

The website says Queen Latifah, whose real name is Dana Owens, had more than $10,000 worth of jewelry reportedly stolen from her luxury villa in Tobago, an island resort in the Caribbean, according to the local paper, Trinidad and Tobago's Newsday.

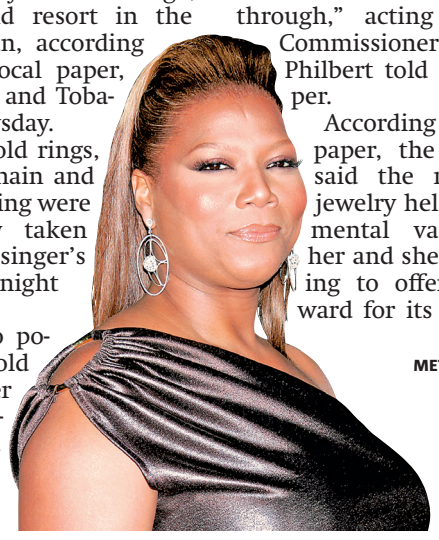
Two gold rings, a gold chain and a silver ring were allegedly taken from singer's $1,000-a-night villa.

Tobago police told the paper they believe a staff member committed the theft. Local police have also reportedly questioned several employees of Stone Haven Villas.

"Several searches are being carried out and the police are trying to have the jewelry returned to Queen Latifah. Investigators said the larceny seems to be an inside job and efforts are being made round the clock to make a breakthrough," acting Police Commissioner James Philbert told the paper.

According to the paper, the singer said the missing jewelry held sentimental value to her and she is willing to offer a reward for its return.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Lewis favoured for Mariah musical role

MUSIC Mariah Carey wants Leona Lewis to play her in a musical of her life, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The Touch My Body singer has reportedly agreed to see her story immortalized in a stage show in New York's famous Broadway district and is said to be particularly keen to have the British star take on the lead role.

A source said: "Mariah's not sure if she'll star in it herself. If she doesn't, names being tossed around include High School Musical star Vanessa Hudgens and Desperate Housewives actress Eva Longoria. But Mariah secretly likes the idea of Leona Lewis playing her." A spokesperson confirmed to Britain's Daily Mirror newspaper: Mariah is in talks for a Broadway musical to be made about her life in 2009.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

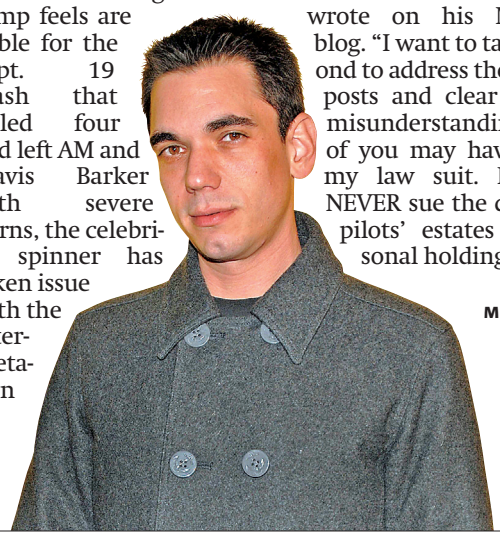
DJ AM explains lawsuit

LEGAL DJ AM wants us to know he's not taking the fatal plane crash he survived personally, people.com reports.

In response to reports about his recently filed negligence lawsuit against those his legal camp feels are liable for the Sept. 19 crash that killed four and left AM and Travis Barker with severe burns, the celebrity spinner has taken issue with the interpretation that he is suing the families of the deceased pilots.

"Normally I don't feel like I NEED to make a statement like this, but after I read some recently reported untruths I feel like I have to," AM, whose real name is Adam Goldstein, wrote on his MySpace blog. "I want to take a second to address the hurtful posts and clear up any misunderstandings any of you may have about my law suit. I would NEVER sue the deceased pilots' estates or personal holdings."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Criss proposed to Holly: Witness

RELATIONSHIPS Holly Madison and Criss Angel may be walking down the aisle, usmagazine.com reports.

The gossip site quotes and E! report that the couple — who have been dating since Madison's October split from Hugh Hefner — were spotted at Berger & Son Fine Jewelers in Las Vegas on Christmas Eve eyeing rings.

"They were looking at one ring and Criss said, 'Would you marry me?'" a spy told E!. "Holly didn't say anything. She just looked at him." After a crowd began to form outside the store, the pair prepared to make a hasty exit, and Angel "handed the ring back to the sales guy and said, 'Thanks,'" the witness says.

A rep for Madison admits Angel picked up bling for her — but says it's not for a wedding.

"Criss bought Holly a ring for her birthday," the rep said. "It's a flower ring."

A source close to Angel tells usmagazine.com: "He asked Holly what she wanted for her birthday and she said she only wanted a flower so he got her the diamond ring that is shaped like a flower."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Williams craves Timberlake duet

PEOPLE Michelle Williams would love to record a duet with Justin Timberlake, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The former Destiny's Child singer admires the SexyBack star's hard working attitude and also his gorgeous body.

She said: "I like Justin Timberlake. He is not only hot, he also has an amazing work ethic. If I met him I would ask him if we could do a duet. By duet, I mean make a record together."

Although Michelle has a soft spot for Justin, she admits she would rather date a more mature man but doesn't care what they look like.

"I want a guy who is older than me — so that rules out Justin, although he is mature for his age. I wouldn't want anyone older than 34. He doesn't have to be overly cute because I don't want him hogging the mirror. He would need to be funny, loyal and have his own career."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Hudson to sing at Obama event?

PERFORMANCE Jennifer Hudson may perform at Barack Obama's Inauguration, usmagazine.com is reporting. The performance would be her first since her mother, brother and 7-year-old nephew were brutally murdered in Chicago last October. "Organizers want Jennifer to sing The Star-Spangled Banner at the Inauguration on January 20," a source tells the New York Post, which first reported the news. "They are talking to Jennifer about it," the source adds. "She is from Chicago and a huge Obama supporter."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Need a light? Just ask Biel

PEOPLE Jessica Biel carries a cigarette lighter even though she doesn't smoke, femalefirst.co.uk reports. She said: "I'm not a smoker, but I always feel really left out when everybody goes out to smoke, so I join them and light their cigarettes."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Costar praises Black's kissing

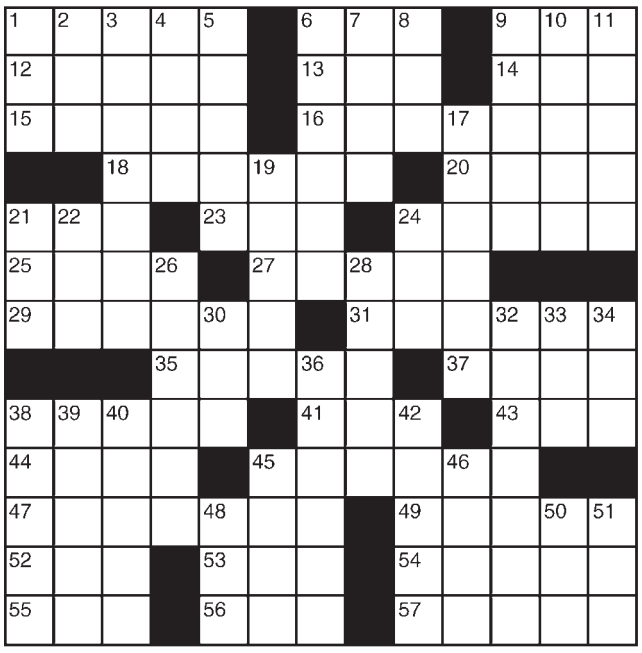
PEOPLE Cloris Leachman displays some serious PDA with Jack Black in an upcoming episode of The Office, usmagazine.com reports. "I have an intimate scene with Jack Black," Leachman told Entertainment Tonight. "He has to take me naked out of a bath tub and we kiss a lot," added Leachman, 82.
So is Black — 43 years her junior — a good smoocher? "Yeah!" Leachman said.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

The Weather Network
©The Weather Network 2008
Today Mainly sunny 2° / 0°
Saturday 90% Rain and snow 4° / 3°
Sunday 100% Rain 6° / 4°
WeatherEye... Free App Available on iPhone.

For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: **metronews.ca/food**

Take Five



Crossword across

1 Quantities stolen
6 Boom times
9 Harvest goddess
12 Up to
13 Enthusiast
14 Torched
15 Mrs. Gorbachev
16 Render untraditionally
18 Incision implement
20 Leak slowly
21 Mueller's org.
23 State of India
24 Twangy
25 Lounge about
27 Unfriendly
29 EBBs collectively
31 Veer
35 Excuse
37 Stench
38 Story-telling brother
41 Scarlet
43 Wolfed down
44 Carry on
45 Breakfast choice
47 Put on a pedestal
49 Oust
52 Round Table address
53 La —, Bolivia
54 Bakery request
55 Plaything
56 Raw rock
57 Saccharine

Crossword down

1 "Ben- —"
2 Literary collection
3 Work with
4 Sax-playing Simpson
5 Word on the street?
6 Open
7 Green shot
8 Pigs' digs
9 Hodgepodges
10 Fast food choice
11 Bessemer product
17 Hammock occupant
19 Raccoon's cousin
21 Winter bug
22 — -relief
24 Without delay
26 Canine coat
28 Wickerwork willow
30 Freddy's street
32 Become aware of
33 Examine
34 — out a living
36 Pleasant wind
38 Mill fodder
39 TV's ancestor
40 Scrimshaw material
42 Gary Cooper role
45 Despot
46 Declare
48 Wall St. debut
50 Bee follower
51 Potent stick

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

8			6		9			
9	2						5	1
	5			4		8		
	9		8	3				4
		3				9		
7				6	1		3	
		2		7			8	
1	8						7	3
			3		8			6

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

E	M	S	■	C	O	I	L	■	A	R	I	D		
Y	A	M	■	O	N	T	O	■	N	O	L	O		
E	G	O	■	R	O	O	S	E	V	E	L	T		
R	I	G	I	D	■	■	S	K	I	■	■	■		
■	■	■	N	O	V	A	■	E	L	B	O	W		
C	O	R	N	B	E	L	T	■	S	A	V	E		
A	K	A	■	A	R	B	O	R	■	B	A	S		
B	R	I	O	■	T	U	N	A	M	E	L	T		
S	A	L	S	A	■	M	E	T	E	■	■	■		
■	■	■	P	R	O	■	■	A	N	O	D	E		
H	E	A	R	T	F	E	L	T	■	B	A	R		
R	A	G	E	■	F	L	E	A	■	I	T	S		
S	T	A	Y	■	S	K	I	T	■	T	A	T		

8	5	1	9	3	6	4	7	2
9	7	2	4	5	8	3	1	6
4	6	3	1	2	7	9	5	8
6	1	8	5	9	2	7	3	4
5	2	4	3	7	1	6	8	9
7	3	9	8	6	4	5	2	1
1	4	5	7	8	9	2	6	3
3	8	6	2	4	5	1	9	7
2	9	7	6	1	3	8	4	5

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Poached Salmon with Dill Sauce

INGREDIENTS — FISH:
4 fresh or frozen and thawed salmon or halibut steaks, 3/4 inch (2 cm) thick (about 6 oz/175 g each)
1 cup dry white wine
1 small yellow onion, thickly sliced
2 lemon slices
4 sprigs parsley
4 whole black peppercorns

INGREDIENTS — DILL SAUCE:
1 tbsp (15 ml) butter or margarine
1 tbsp (15 ml) all-purpose flour
2 tsp (10 ml) finely chopped fresh dill or 3/4 tsp (4 ml) dried dill weed
1/2 tsp (2 ml) sugar
1/8 tsp (0.5 ml) salt
1 large egg yolk, lightly beaten
1 teaspoon lemon juice

METHOD:
1. Rinse fish and pat dry. Poach fish: in large skillet, combine wine, onion, lemon slices, parsley and peppercorns. Bring to boil. Arrange salmon in a single layer in wine mixture. Bring to boil. Lower heat and simmer, covered, for 5 to 8 minutes or until fish flakes when tested with fork. Use slotted spatula to carefully remove salmon from the skillet; keep warm. Strain and reserve 1 cup (250 ml) cooking liquid.
2. For dill sauce: in small saucepan, melt butter over moderate heat. Whisk in flour, dill, sugar and salt, and cook for 1 minute or until bubbly. Add reserved cooking liquid. Cook, whisking constantly, until mixture starts to thicken. Slowly stir about 1/2 cup (125 ml) hot mixture into egg yolk, then return to saucepan. Cook, stirring constantly, for 1 to 2 minutes or until the mixture thickens (do not boil). Stir in lemon juice.
3. Spoon some dill sauce over salmon and serve.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
A larger-than-life mystery deepens. A drama queen is reaching critical mass. An elderly person can move you to tears.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Contact with a maniac will revive you. An ambiguous friend realizes his foolishness. A sweetheart wants to give you something special.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Give some thought to being more diligent. Don't refuse an offer that saves money. A daunting person will ask you for something precious.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Make sure that all loose ends are tied up. Time is wasted in mending someone's misery. Plans are made to clear the air.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Trust a friend to be honest with you. A message comes about an illness. Decisions are influenced by casual comments.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Don't give up on someone who has problems. There's a happy ending for a gullible guy. An important person is willing to work on a new project.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Be sincere with someone who is attentive. Ask questions about some entertaining surprises. You are too excitable for your own good.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Be true to yourself. A troubled person creates animosity. Don't disagree with a stranger who makes sense.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Be serious when dealing with an obstinate fool. Answer questions without joking. Be prepared to face a difficulty alone.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Don't waste a chance to discuss secrets. Someone pulls the rug out from under a worker. Frustration results from sticking to the rules.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
It's a good day to make a special request. Use your common sense with romantic interests. Avoid over-sensitivity at dinnertime.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
A serious relationship continues after a setback. A man is excused for standing his ground. You'll make time for another project.

WORDY GURDY®

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

1. Do damage to Old MacDonald's spread (1)
2. Coexist in a dragon's den (1)
3. Unfairly distort a puzzle hint (1)
4. Use a loom to make a shirt arm section (1)
5. Athenians' horror movie screams (1)
6. Red Cross founder Clara's kilt patterns (2)
7. Fighting hard to keep three balls in the air (2)

Every answer is a rhyming pair of words (like FAT CAT and DOUBLE TROUBLE), and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word. To win $10, send your original rhymes with your definitions to this newspaper. All entries become the property of UFS, Inc.

© 2009 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

Thanks and $10 to Anita Gregory of Pasadena, CA for #6. Send your entry to this newspaper.

ANSWERS
1. HARM FARM 2. SHARE LAIR 3. SKEW CLUE 4. WEAVE SLEEVE 5. GREEKS SHRIEKS 6. BARTONS TARTANS 7. STRUGGLING JUGGLING

1-2-09

This day in history

JAN. 2, 1860 — The discovery of the planet Vulcan is announced at a meeting of the Académie des Sciences in Paris.
JAN. 2, 1882 — John D. Rockefeller unites his oil holdings into the Standard Oil trust.
JAN. 2, 1959 — Luna 1, the first spacecraft to reach the vicinity of the moon and to orbit the sun, is launched by the U.S.S.R.
JAN. 2, 1993 — Leaders of the three warring factions in Bosnia meet to discuss peace plans.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

ONE DAY ONLY!
SATURDAY, JANUARY 3

WOW!

20x THE POINTS

when you spend $50 or more* on almost everything in the store.

PLUS These Saturday only Specials - January 3rd†

SATURDAY ONLY 2/5.77 REST OF WEEK 2/8.99

COCA-COLA (12 x 355mL) or **PEPSI** (12 x 355mL or 8 x 355mL) REGULAR or DIET Selected Flavours
or 4.50 case. Limit 4
+ Deposit & Enviro Levy Where Applicable

SATURDAY ONLY 2/$5 REST OF WEEK 2.99

PEPSI, 7-UP BEVERAGES (6 x 710mL) or **AQUAFINA** WATER (4's - 6's)
Selected Types
or 2.99 each. Limit 4
+ Deposit & Enviro Levy Where Applicable

SATURDAY ONLY 6.99 each REST OF WEEK 8.99

KRAFT DINNER
12's
Limit 3. After limit 8.99

SATURDAY ONLY 1.99 each REST OF WEEK 2.99

KOTEX MAXIPADS (14's - 24's) or PANTILINERS (34's - 48's)
Selected Types
Limit 4. After limit 2.99

SATURDAY ONLY 7.99 each REST OF WEEK 9.99

ADVIL 200mg LIQUI-GELS (72's), EXTRA STRENGTH CAPLETS (50's) or LIQUI-GELS (72's)
Limit 4. After limit 9.99

SATURDAY ONLY 17.77 each REST OF WEEK 19.99

CREST
WHITESTRIPS (56's) with BONUS TOOTHBRUSH ON-PACK
Bonus Pack available while quantities last.
Limit 4. After limit 19.99

SATURDAY ONLY 1.49 each REST OF WEEK 1.88

COLGATE PREMIUM TOOTHBRUSH (1) or TOOTHPASTE (85mL - 130mL)
Selected Types
Limit 4. After limit 1.88

SATURDAY ONLY 7.99 kit REST OF WEEK 8.99

EXCELLENCE
CRÈME HAIR COLOUR by **L'ORÉAL**
Limit 4. After limit 8.99

SATURDAY ONLY 3.99 each REST OF WEEK 4.99

EASYPIX 800 SINGLE USE CAMERA (27 exp.), 200, 400 FILM (3 x 24 exp.), **DURACELL** ULTRA, POWERPIX AA (4's) or COPPERTOP (2's - 8's) BATTERIES
Selected Types Limit 4. After limit 4.99

SATURDAY ONLY 2.99 each REST OF WEEK 3.99

VIVE PRO, STUDIO LINE or **L'ORÉAL** KIDS HAIR CARE PRODUCTS
Selected Types & Sizes Excludes Studio FX
Limit 4. After limit 3.99

*Points are issued according to the net pretax purchase total of eligible products after redemptions and discounts and before taxes using a valid Shoppers Optimum Card®. Excludes prescription purchases, bonus points, products that contain codeine, tobacco products (where applicable), lottery tickets, stamps, transit tickets and passes, event tickets, electronic gift cards, prepaid phone cards, Life Experiences® packages and Shoppers Home Health Care locations. Offer applies to photofinishing services that are picked up and paid for on Saturday, January 3, 2009. Not to be used in conjunction with any other Shoppers Optimum Points® promotions or offers. Offer valid Saturday, January 3, 2009 only. See cashier for details. ® 911979 Alberta Ltd. †Prices in effect for Saturday, January 3, 2009 only. While quantities last. No rainchecks. See cashier for details.

SHOPPERS DRUG MART